



## INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1990

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Maharishi wants to move to Florida:** A California company wants to build a residential community in Florida devoted to the teachings of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, former mentor of the Beatles and founder of transcendental meditation.

The Maharishi Heaven on Earth Development Corp., a 2-year-old Malibu development company was started by four businessmen who met in India with the Maharishi, whose method of relaxing the body to relieve stress swept the nation in the early 1970s.

Company officials said the Maharishi has nothing to do with the development company, whose founders believe many of society's problems can be attributed to poor planning. But they said he hopes the communities will be patterned after the Maharishi's master plan to create heaven on earth.

Company officials targeted Gainesville as one of 50 communities to build a "Maharishi city of immortals" because of Florida's growth rate, and that Tampa and Palm Beach are also under consideration. They plan to pitch their plans to Gainesville developers and architects next week.

The company plans to build 50 "heavenly" communities across North America to provide environments free of pollution, stress, noise and crime, said Jim Bagnoli, a company vice-president. (UPI)

**Chlorine gas leak kills 4 in India:** Mother Teresa rushed to the site where chlorine gas clouds surged through a crowded street Friday in the eastern port city of Calcutta, killing four people and injuring more than 200 others, police said.

Mother Teresa, who suffers from heart complications and was fitted recently with a pacemaker, walked streets virtually deserted by fearful residents and later held a special prayer meeting at her charity home that looks after Calcutta's poor and destitute.

Her charity home is located less than a mile (1.6 km) from the accident site, police said, adding that the home was not affected by the leak.

Residents returned to their homes after authorities told them the air was free of the pungent gas, police said.

They said the gas leaked out in the pre-dawn hours from a 25-gallon (92-litre) metal cylinder at a small paint factory located in a crowded Kalighat area of the eastern West Bengal state capital of Calcutta.

Four people, including two children, were killed, and more than 200 were affected by the gas. They were taken to local hospitals, where most were treated and released. Police said 21 people remained in the hospital.

Police arrested the factory owner in connection with the incident. (UPI)

**Air security improved in Europe:** A US commission on aviation security and terrorism appointed after the Flight 103 disaster said Friday that airport security has improved in Europe but Africa is a "basket case."

"If there is an Achilles heel in aviation security, it is Africa, which is literally a basket case," said US congressman James L. Oberstar, chairman of the House of Representatives Public Works and Transportation subcommittee on Aviation. (AP)



Dhaka protest

Leaders of Bangladesh opposition party, Awami League, scuffle with police preventing them from marching towards the office of President Hussain Muhammed Ershad demanding his resignation and fair elections. Later they dispersed without violence. (Reuter wirephoto)

## IA may ground A320s: Khan

### Mystery shrouds crash

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

BANGALORE, India, Feb 17: India's civil aviation minister told grieving relatives at a mortuary service today he would ground all aircraft of the type that crashed this week, killing 90 if there were any doubts about its safety.

Indian authorities gathered 23 unidentified bodies, badly charred and shrivelled, for the symbolic ceremony in a hospital mortuary and were surprised when three of the victims were identified by some of the 200 relatives present.

Investigators have begun analysing data from the cockpit voice recorder of the Airbus.

A six-member team from the Airbus Industries, the European consortium that built the plane, arrived from France on Thursday to help India's directorate general of civil aviation in investigations into the accident.

"I just wish he had died in a road accident, then at least I could have seen his face," said Mrs. A. Govindraji who then dissolved into tears and could not speak to explain how she had identified her husband.

Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christian priests were chanting over coffins draped with marigolds and roses. Priests burned incense.

The analysis of the cockpit voice recorder was expected to be completed today but results will not be immediately released, officials said.

The "black box," the digital flight data recorder that logs all changes in altitude, speed and direction, would likely be sent to Canada for decoding.

Some Indian newspapers have speculated that Wednesday's crash may have occurred because the pilot tried to change the mode of control from computer to manual in the last minutes of the landing, giving the computer too little time to allow the changeover.

Other newspapers suggested the plane's instruments may have indicated the wrong height, which may have misled the pilot to lower the plane earlier than he should have.

Indian airline officials disputed the reports.

## Dhaka, Delhi in accord

DHAKA, Feb 17, (UPI): Indian External Affairs Minister L.K. Gujral, opening a three-day official visit, reached agreement today with his Bangladeshi counterpart to stop cross-border attacks by tribal insurgents, officials said.

The agreement marked a successful start in Dhaka to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's efforts to improve bilateral relations with neighbours that suffered under his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi, spokesman for the two sides said.

Problems were "spilt out in a most cordial and warm atmosphere," Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan told reporters at one of two-hour-long meetings between Gujral and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Ahsanullah.

"Considering the tenor of talks, we are on right path," Ahsan said. "The first contact between the two governments was not to solve all outstanding issues."

The issue of tribal insurgents concerns an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 Shanti Bahini — called mercenaries by Bangladeshis and rebels by Indians — who kill and pillage in Bangladesh and take sanctuary across the border in India.

India gave Bangladeshi categorical assurance it will not give any sanctuary to Shanti Bahini or allow them to operate against Bangladesh from Indian soil, Ahsan said.

Gujral also briefed the Bangladeshi delegation on Indian positions on Kashmir, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Ahsan said. Bangladesh wanted a peaceful, negotiated solution to Kashmir's violent movement for secession from India, Ahsan said.

India also reiterated that its forces will be withdrawn from Sri Lanka by March 31, Ahsan said.

Gujral, who was making his first visit to Bangladesh and second foreign visit overall since Singh took office, told a dinner meeting on Friday his National Front party was committed to improving relations with its neighbour.

Gujral also charged opponents of the system with trying to force their own version of democracy on the country.

The no-party system was introduced in the early 1960s, after the royal takeover of the administration, and followed the dissolution of Western-style parliamentary system.

He reiterated that India's policy continues to seek every opportunity to improve relations with Sri Lanka and impart it greater strength and content.

Gujral said during Wijeratne's visit to India it had been agreed to work jointly, to bring about a ceasefire between the warring Tamil groups in Sri Lanka's north-eastern Province.

He regretted that after Wijeratne's return, the Sri Lankan government had not taken steps to implement this understanding.

# Opposition leaders under house arrest

## Nepal cracks down on democracy drive

KATMANDU, Feb 17, (AP): The Nepalese government today put three main opposition leaders under house arrest one day before they were to launch a movement to demand a return to multi-party politics.

Police in vans surrounded the home of Ganesh Man Singh, a senior opposition leader, and placed him under house arrest, family sources said. Armed policemen guarded the entrance and did not allow anyone to enter.

Government sources confirmed that arrest, and said authorities also put under house arrest Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the acting president of the leftist Nepali Congress, and party Secretary-General G.B. Koirala.

The sources described the action as "preventative detention."

The planned movement to restore multi-party politics, announced by the Nepali Congress last month, was to be led by the United Left Front, a grouping of the seven factions of the outlawed Communist Party of Nepal.

The movement to demand an end to Nepal's 29-year-old ban on political parties, was to begin tomorrow, which is Nepal's 40th national democracy day.

Police on Tuesday arrested top leaders of the United Left Front, including its chairwoman, Sahana Pradhan, and a large number of activists have already been taken into custody.

Bhattarai yesterday said that more than 2,200 activists, including many students, had been rounded up by the police in the nation-wide crackdown on dissent.

But the home ministry later that day issued a statement saying only 559 persons suspected of involvement in disruptive activities had been taken into custody. It said further investigations were underway.

Bhattarai, briefing the press on Thursday at party headquarters, said the party had formed committees to lead the movement even if its three top leaders were arrested.

He said the movement would be peaceful and non-violent, and added "if anything happens, the entire responsibility lies with the government."

Although the party is outlawed, it runs an office in a downtown building.

Home Minister Niranjan Thapa, in a statement delivered over Radio Nepal today, said the party system has become an integral part of the Nepalese state and defended it as democratic.

Thapa charged opponents of the system with trying to force their own version of democracy on the country.

The no-party system was introduced in the early 1960s, after the royal takeover of the administration, and followed the dissolution of Western-style parliamentary system.

Koirala's elder brother was removed from the prime minister's post when the partyless system was imposed.

In 1979, King Birendra announced a national referendum on the partyless system and the following year voters chose to continue, but reform, the system. As a result, they were given the right to elect representatives to the national assembly, which has 112 elected members and 28 nominees of the king.

In another development, editors and publishers of private vernacular newspapers today criticised the government for the seizure of papers critical of the state.

Colombo to send 500 nurses abroad

COLOMBO, Feb 17, (Kuna): Over 500 Sri Lankan nurses are to be sent to several West Asian countries shortly for two year stints, an official said.

The government official said, in recent months the state run Foreign Employment Bureau (FEB) has received over 1,000 job orders for nurses from West Asian nations, including Kuwait and the United States of America.

The FEB has requested the country's Health Ministry to handle the matter and the latter has received several thousands of applications on the category, the official.



Premadasa gestures while addressing the all party conference in Colombo. At right is Parliament Speaker Haniffa Mohamed. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Friendship treaty**

No Indian coercion

NEW DELHI, Feb 17, (Kuna): India will not thrust on Sri Lanka a friendship treaty, which had been proposed by the island nation two years ago.

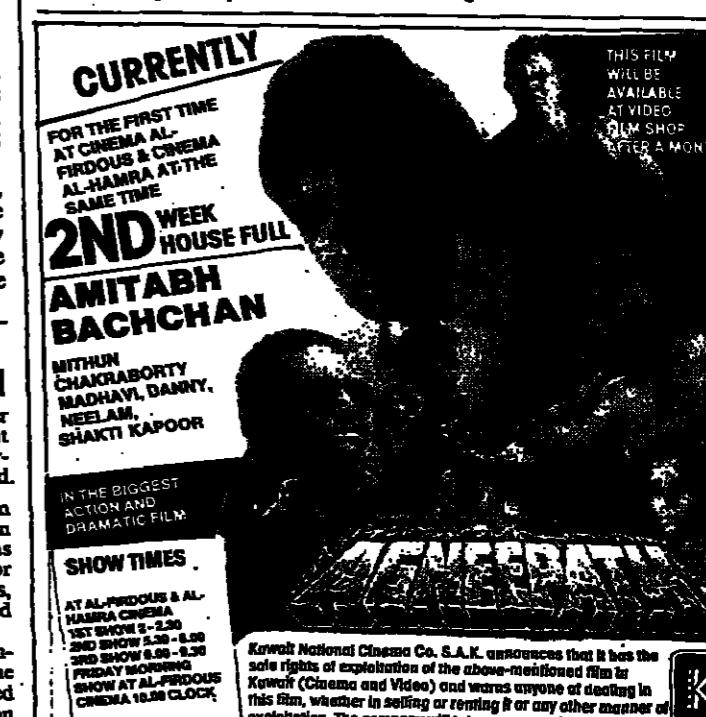
Indian External Affairs Minister L.K. Gujral said in a statement in Calcutta on his way to Bangladesh, that there was and there is no pressure from India on Sri Lanka to sign a treaty early. India is happy with the July 29, 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

The external affairs minister was making the statement in reply to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's statement in Colombo yesterday that his government could not be coerced to sign a friendship treaty with India before the last Indian soldier left his country.

He reiterated that India's policy continues to seek every opportunity to improve relations with Sri Lanka and impart it greater strength and content.

Gujral said during Wijeratne's visit to India it had been agreed to work jointly, to bring about a ceasefire between the warring Tamil groups in Sri Lanka's north-eastern Province.

He regretted that after Wijeratne's return, the Sri Lankan government had not taken steps to implement this understanding.



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## Transmits HIV-2

## Monkey, Aids linked

NEW ORLEANS, Feb 17, (AP): A gray monkey called the sooty mangabey almost certainly triggered an epidemic in West Africa of a disease closely related to Aids by spreading a virus to people, a researcher said yesterday.

Dr Vanessa Hirsch of Georgetown University said the monkey probably transmitted the HIV-1 virus to people sometime within the past century through a bite or some other close contact.

While HIV-2 can kill, it is not as relentlessly fatal as HIV-1, the virus responsible for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Many kinds of African monkeys naturally harbour relatives of the human Aids virus. And while the chances of transmission from animals to people are slim, this likely has happened in the past and could occur again.

"I would say it's very dangerous to own any kind of

African primate," said Hirsch.

Hirsch presented her findings at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Many experts believe that HIV-1 spread from animals to people, as well. According to one theory, it moved into a small, geographically isolated pocket of humans in Africa sometime in the past. But the disease became epidemic only in recent years when those people moved to cities.

While no one has pinpointed the primate ancestor of HIV-1, Hirsch said the discovery of one possible candidate will be published soon in the British journal, Nature. She said that a team from the French Pasteur Institute has discovered a variety of HIV-1 in a pet chimpanzee.

"The evidence is highly suggestive of transmission from monkeys to man of HIV-2," agreed Dr Louis Martin of the Delta Regional Primate Research centre.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

ST PETERSBURG, Florida: A Goodwill Industries worker accustomed to finding change in donated shoes ran across one shoe with a bit more — \$3,000.

"I took one look at that and I said, 'oh, oh, oh,'" said Fred Kehrt, who has worked in a goodwill programme for the disabled for 20 years.

The \$20 and \$50 bills were in several bank envelopes marked with the name Mrs Henry Konarske and an address. Henry Konarske, who is recuperating from a recent hernia operation, answered the telephone call from Goodwill employees.

He said his wife, Martha, died recently, and he had donated some of her belongings. The Goodwill employees told the 90-year-old retired postal worker about the cash.

"I didn't know what to say," Konarske said. "It was a surprise to me, I didn't know anything about it. Until she got sick about two years ago, she took care of all the bills."

NEW YORK: Keith Haring, whose distinctive drawings on New York City subway station walls caught the eye of influential dealers and became the basis for a lucrative career, died of Aids on Friday. He was 31.

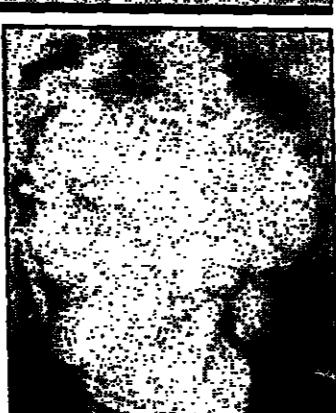
Haring, who had been diagnosed as having the Aids virus more than a year ago, died in his downtown New York City apartment, said an assistant, Margaret Shobert.

Haring, who was active in Aids fund raising, returned Jan 18 from a trip to Europe, and soon fell ill with cold and flu-like symptoms, she said.

For the past few days, he had been under the 24-hour care of a nurse at home, she said.

Haring's work, characterised by cartoon-like human and animal figures in an energised setting, has been exhibited world-wide. He has had 400-plus shows, but (j) perhaps best known for his murals in subway places.

Among these was a 300-foot (100-metre) mural painted on the Berlin Wall in 1986, a chain of red



Smiling's a pain

Barbara Bush (shown above) kept an active schedule Friday, saying she felt great following minor skin cancer surgery that left her with a slightly swollen lip and a row of stitches beneath her nose.

The First Lady was cheerful and energetic as she toured an interior design exhibition benefit the Washington Home, a health care and housing programme with which she has long been associated.

Smiling, but not broadly, she replied "great" when asked how she felt following the outpatient operation Wednesday to remove a small basal cell cancer on her upper lip.

and black human figures on a yellow background — incorporating the colours of the flag of East and West Germany. (AP)

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SANTA BARBARA, California: Actor Sean Connery was caught by police driving at high speeds along a scenic highway, a la James Bond. He has admitted guilt and paid a fine, authorities said.

"007 did it. But unlike Zsa Zsa, he didn't fight with police," said... Bob Calvert, Santa Barbara county sheriff's deputy, referring to Miss Gabor's conviction for slapping a Beverly Hills policeman who stopped her Rolls-Royce.

## US court reverses ruling on DES

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (UPI): In a victory for women stricken by cancer linked to a miscarriage-prevention drug taken by their mothers, a federal appeals court ruled yesterday that circumstantial evidence can be used in lawsuits against makers of the drug.

The decision could affect hundreds of similar cases pending in courts in the United States, according to Aaron Levine, the lawyer representing women affected by the drug diethylstilbestrol, or DES.

In reversing a federal court ruling, the US circuit court of appeals for the district of Columbia found that Amy Shields, 35, of Richmond, Virginia, "produced more than sufficient evidence for a reasonable juror to conclude that she had been exposed to DES."

The three-judge appeals panel ordered Shields' suit, filed against DES manufacturer Eli Lilly, back to US district court in Washington for a possible trial.

In the 1950s, DES frequently was given to pregnant women to reduce the risk of miscarriage. The Food and Drug Administration banned the drug in the 1970s after linking it to the incidence of vaginal cancer in women whose mothers took the drug during pregnancy.

Shields contracted vaginal cancer but could not find medical or pharmaceutical records to show her mother took the drug. Her mother's doctor had since died and to prove her case, she relied on testimony from her own doctors who suspected she had been exposed to the drug, her mother's description of the medication, her mother's symptoms during pregnancy and other pieces of circumstantial evidence.

The trial court found Shields failed to present conclusive proof she had been exposed to the drug.

But appeals court judge Abner Mikva, writing for the unanimous court in reversing the lower court decision, said there was enough evidence to prove exposure that the plaintiff does not have to rule out "every conceivable alternative theory" of the ailment.

A spokeswoman for Eli Lilly and Co. said the company had no comment because the case is still open.



Master sentenced

The owner of a pit bull named Willy (shown top) that mauled to death a two-year-old boy was sentenced on Friday to nearly four years in prison.

The dog's owner, Michael Patrick Berry, 40, (bottom), told Santa Clara Superior Court Judge John Flaherty that he was "full of nothing but remorse" after his dog attacked James Scott in June 1987.

The boy had wandered into Berry's yard, where investigators said the dog had been chained to guard a marijuana batch.

The judge sentenced Berry to three years and eight months in prison and fined him \$500.

"The punishment for being a wandering child is not death... by being killed by a pit bull," the judge said.

The case was the nation's first in which anyone has been convicted of manslaughter for the actions of a pet.

Flaherty, after rejecting a plea from Berry's lawyer for leniency, said the court needed to make a statement that irresponsible ownership of a dog or other animal would not be tolerated.

Berry's lawyer told the court that his client, a burly labourer, had no malicious intent in owning the dog. He said he was not surprised by the prison sentence but planned to file an appeal.

## Ex-soul singer Ike Turner sentenced

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Feb 17, (AP): Veteran soul singer Ike Turner was sentenced yesterday to four years in prison on cocaine charges, and a prosecutor said he hopes jail will help the 58-year-old one-time music star.

"Our hope is that when he gets out he'll do something along the lines of rehabilitation," said deputy district attorney Ralph Mayer. "He's not the type of criminal that's in any way violent or selling the drugs. He's just a 20-year abuser of the drugs who should have been caught a long time ago."

Turner admitted in 1986 that he had been addicted to cocaine for 15 years.

Following sentencing by superior court judge Robert

Alman, Turner was handed over to a sheriff's deputy for delivery to a state prison.

"It's the first time he's been to state prison," said Mayer.

"Four years for a man in his late 50s, he'll be over 60 when he gets out. I think that's appropriate."

Last month, a superior court jury convicted the ex-husband of Grammy winner Tina Turner of two drug misdemeanors, driving under the influence of cocaine and being under the influence of cocaine.

The panel deadlocked on two felony charges, transportation of cocaine and possession of cocaine for sale, forcing a mistrial. Turner then pleaded guilty, avoiding another trial, Mayer said.

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## Foetus tests point to marrow match

## Pregnancy bid pays off

LOS ANGELES, Feb 17. (UPI): A middle-aged couple appear to have beaten the medical odds in their desperate gambit to save their leukemia-stricken daughter by having a baby who can donate vital bone marrow to her sister.

Maria and Abe Ayala's baby, due in April, will be a compatible donor for her 17-year-old sister, Anissa, which means the bone marrow the baby provides will have a 70-per cent chance of defeating the form of leukemia afflicting the teenager, doctors at City of Hope National Medical Centre, in Duarte, Calif., announced yesterday.

"It was just an impossibility to say that this baby is going to match but... we are all very blessed," a tearful Maria Ayala, 43, said after learning of the likely match. "I feel that my baby is a blessing from God. When they told us, I couldn't believe it."

"This is our baby, our miracle baby," the 45-year-old father said at the same news conference.

The chances for a bone marrow match among siblings is about 25 per cent while there is only a 1-in-20,000 chance of finding a matching donor in the general population.

"I never thought I'd be pregnant at my age," Maria Ayala said, "but when you're faced with the possibility that your child is going to die, you desperately seek, and whatever you need to do, you do it."

Tests have determined the baby, due April 13, is a girl. She will be named Marissa Eve.

No other members of the Walnut, Calif. family match Anissa's bone marrow, and a search by the national marrow donor programme of unrelated donors has failed to find a match.

"In this particular case, the testing has been performed and it shows the baby is a match to the patient," said Dr Stephen J. Forman, director of hematology and bone marrow transplantation at City of Hope.

Legal and medical ethics experts expressed concern about the ramifications of the mother's decision to bear a child for the purpose of helping her daughter.

Alexander Morgan Capron, a University of Southern California professor of law and medicine, said there are important issues to consider.

"There is the psychological issue that the baby is her sister's organ bank," Capron said. "If it turns out that she is not well-matched to the sister with leukemia, in what way will they regard her? That she has failed in her mission."

Anissa Ayala, whose leukemia was diagnosed in 1988 and currently is in remission, answered critics of the pregnancy.

"We don't even know if she is going to save my life," she said. "She's going to be my baby sister. We will love her for what she is, not for what she is going to do for me."

Forman said the baby will be tested again after birth to confirm the initial results of tests on amniotic fluid, the verified compatible tissue type.

Forman said bone marrow transplants from siblings under age 2 are fairly common and the procedure is not dangerous.

baby to provide a donor, but doctors have not supported that decision.

"We never encouraged that to be the reason to bring the child into the world," he said. "Our hope is that the national registry (of donors) will grow and eliminate the need for this sort of thing."

Doctors at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis said they have known of similar cases in which parents have chosen to have a child to increase the chances of finding a marrow donor.

However, St Jude, one of the nation's foremost medical centres for treating children with cancer, has maintained a policy of not advising parents one way or the other on such a decision, hospital spokeswoman Deborah McCrory said.

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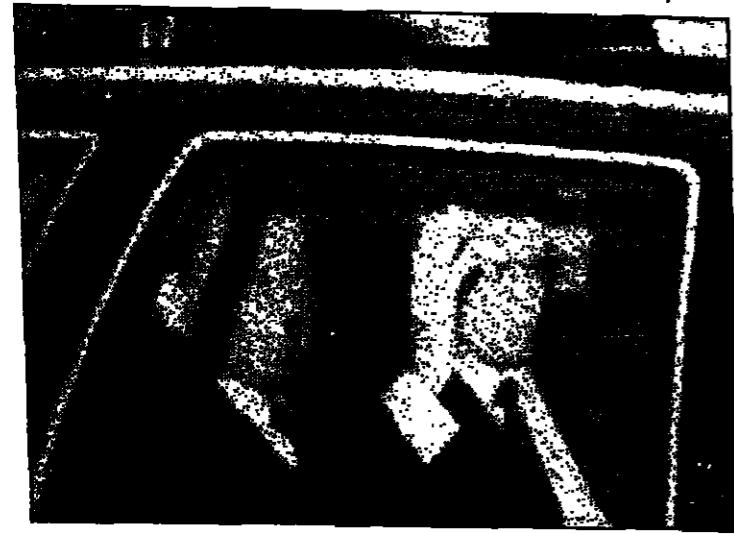
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Former US president Ronald Reagan waves to photographers as he arrives at the Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles yesterday to testify in Iran-Contra affair. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Reagan testifies in Iran-Contra affair

Ex-president to face 154 questions by defence attorney in camera

LOS ANGELES, Feb 17. (AP): Ronald Reagan was in front of the camera again, with lawyers hanging on his every word as the former president produced a videotaped version of his recollection of the Iran-Contra affair.

Reagan testified behind closed doors for about six hours yesterday, answering questions about his role in the Iran-Contra affair, the failed arms-for-hostages deal during Reagan's second term as president.

The Iran-Contra affair, the largest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and then the diversion of profits from those deals to resupply the Nicaraguan

rebels, known as Contras.

Reagan was compelled to testify in the case by US district judge Harold Greene, who is presiding over the trial of former White House National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter in Washington, DC.

The former president was to face 154 questions, which were drawn from 183 submitted to the court by defence attorney Richard Beckler. The attorney was allowed follow-up questions if necessary but the judge prohibited him from raising additional questions on new subjects.

Security was especially rigorous for the extraordinary session, which began Friday morning at the federal courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

Reporters were kept more than 100 yards (metres) away.

In deference to the former president, Greene allowed Reagan, 79, to give videotaped testimony near his Bel-Air area home rather than require him to appear in person at Poindexter's trial in Washington.

On Friday, Reagan entered the courtroom a few minutes after Poindexter, and the two exited separately about 6 1/2 hours later, each refusing to respond to questions shouted by the crush of reporters waiting outside.

The former security adviser goes on trial March 5 on charges of concealing from Congress assistance

by his former aide, Oliver North, to the Nicaraguan rebels and lying about a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran.

Poindexter sought the former chief executive's testimony to bolster his contention that his secret activities had been authorised by Reagan.

"I think he was very fair in his testimony," Beckler said of the president as he left court.

Greene threw out 29 of Beckler's questions because they lacked relevancy or touched too closely to national secrets.

Cross-examination was to be conducted by Dan K. Webb, the chief prosecutor for Iran-Contra independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh.

## Noriega cronies may get pardon

PANAMA CITY, Feb 17. (UPI): President Guillermo Endara is considering issuing a pardon to allies of former Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega charged with unconstitutional acts, a presidential aide said Thursday.

President spokesman Luis Martínez said Endara may issue the pardon as part of the national reconciliation process he called for after assuming office Dec 20, the day of the US invasion. Martínez said the decree would be made "in a matter of weeks."

"He (Endara) would consider a pardon for political opponents charged with unconstitutional acts," Martínez said.

Since the invasion, more than 1,000 charges have been filed at the Attorney general's office against hundreds of military and government officials who served under Noriega. Many charges are for violent crimes such as torture and murder but others are for abuse of power and unconstitutional acts. Martínez said the pardon would not affect persons charged with violent crimes.

Martínez said, for instance, that Endara would consider granting a pardon to the former state council — made up of cabinet ministers and armed forces commanders — which named Noriega's former classmate, Francisco Rodriguez, as president last Sept 1 after the May 7 presidential elections were annulled.

Most observers say Endara won the presidential election by a 3-to-1 margin. The council has been charged with abuse of power since they did not have the power under the Panamanian constitution to name Rodriguez president.

Deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, who claims to be a prisoner of war, was visited yesterday by a doctor and delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Jean-Marc Bonet, Red Cross delegate general for Latin America, refused to give any details of the visit when contacted in Washington.

Three of Noriega's co-defendants on drug-trafficking charges are being held in Miami.

More than 1,000 Panamanian soldiers and civilians died in the December US invasion, far higher than official figures, the head of a group of families who lost relatives in the invasion said yesterday.

"Until now it has not been known how many really died," said the group's leader, Isabel Corro, who called on Panama's new government to investigate the death toll.

## Ortega invites Bush

### Congressmen poll monitors

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (UPI): Twelve members of Congress are members of a delegation headed by former President Jimmy Carter that will observe the Feb 25 presidential and general assembly elections in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua barred a delegation of congressional election observers appointed by President Bush in protest of continuing US non-lethal aid to the Contra guerrillas.

Congress voted in 1988 to cut off military aid to the Contras, which had failed in their efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's Cuban- and Soviet-backed government, but agreed to send food, clothes, medical supplies and other aid to the guerrillas through the elections.

Carter heads the council of freely elected heads of government, a group of election observers that included four members of Congress and which has been welcomed to Nicaragua by the government. After Managua barred the Bush-appointed delegation, Carter invited House and Senate leaders to suggest additional members of Congress for his group.

**I'll be exonerated: Barry**

Mayor undergoing treatment

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (AP): Mayor Marion Barry contends that he will be exonerated of new drug-related charges, but a city official is calling for his resignation and a top adviser wonders whether the mayor has any political future.

Barry, 53, was indicted Thursday on five misdemeanour counts of cocaine possession and three felony counts of lying to a grand jury questioning him on drug use.

US district judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who was assigned the case today, tentatively scheduled Barry's arraignment for next Wednesday.

Closer advisers to Barry said Thursday that the mayor will leave a Florida drug treatment clinic by the end of the month to continue treatment elsewhere. Barry entered the Hanley-Hazelden clinic in West Palm Beach four days after his Jan 18 arrest on a cocaine possession charge.

Barry, in a defiant statement issued through his office, said the indictment was "a continuation of the political lynching and



Barry has steadfastly denied ever using drugs, and his statement said he was undergoing treatment for "the disease of alcoholism."

The mayor said he is giving no thought to resigning.

But one aide, who asked not to be identified, said the indictment dealt "a crippling blow, an absolutely devastating assault" to Barry's re-election chances if he seeks a fourth four-year term in November's election.

Asked if Barry should resign, city councilwoman Betty Ann Kanek said: "It might be in his best interests and the city's best interests. As a person who cares about the city, I would make that recommendation, now that it's gotten to this point."

The Washington Post said in editorial Friday Barry "has lost any last claim to a position of leadership" and should resign.

"For the sake of the city—and of all the talent that stands ready to enlist public support for new leadership in City Hall — Mr Barry should let go — entirely," the newspaper said.

"Now that we will be moving into the courtroom—which is where this case should be tried, not in the press—I am relieved," Barry said. "I know that when a trial is held, I will be exonerated."

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 17. (Agencies): Pablo Escobar, reputed leader of the Medellin Drug Cartel, was indicted yesterday by a state grand jury with 13 others on charges they helped smuggle more than 8,000 pounds (3,629 kilograms) of cocaine through Florida.

Escobar, last reported at large in Colombia, already faces federal drug charges in Miami.

where he is one of 15 co-defendants of Manuel Noriega, Panama's deposed leader.

The Medellin Cartel, based in the Colombian city of that name, is said to be responsible for up to 80 per cent of the cocaine imported to the United States.

Agents said the nine-court racketeering and conspiracy indictment is the culmination of a 15-month investigation.

A principal defendant arrested yesterday was Tarpon Springs attorney James M. Timonere.

Agents alleged he was "soldier in the Colombian drug organization," helping to hide profits from drugs smuggled into the St. Petersburg area and shipped to New York and other large cities.

Timonere was in the Pinellas County jail last night on \$250,000 bond.

Escobar was named in the 1988 federal drug-trafficking indictment that led to the arrest of Noriega. That indictment accused Escobar, as head of the cartel, with bribing Noriega to turn Panama into a transit and processing point for Colombian cocaine.

Noriega was arrested after the US invasion of Panama in December and is awaiting trial in

Florida. Sum Jones, an agent of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said, however, that the central figure in the operation was Escobar.

Escobar, whose full name is Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, was already wanted in Florida, Louisiana and Colorado on charges of trafficking in cocaine, marijuana and possibly heroin.

'No escape from the emotional scars'

## US condemns torture

GENEVA, Feb 17. (Reuter): US Ambassador Armando Valladares, once tortured in Cuban prisons, accused Iran, China, Burma, Nicaragua and Cuba yesterday of using torture and committing other human rights violations.

"For those victims who are fortunate—or in some instances, unfortunate—enough to survive degrading treatment, there is never any escape from the emotional scars of being tortured," he told the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The ambassador singled out Iran, saying it had applied psychological torture and executed more than 1,200 political prisoners in 1988 to stifle opposition.

He said the US government was alarmed at persistent reports of Chinese violations of rights in Tibet and gave the example of 45-year-old Tseten Norgye of Lhasa, who reportedly lost an eye during brutal interrogations.

Citing an Amnesty International report, Valladares criticised Burma for killing and

arresting thousands of people for political reasons.

He said the government in Nicaragua had threatened and sometimes killed opposition leaders.

Speaking in Spanish, he said that in his native Cuba dozens of reformist young people were arrested and tortured after a rally at which a crowd chanted the slogans of "perestroika" (restructuring) and "free elections."

Valladares spent 22 years as a political prisoner under Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

## Bolivians unmoved by drug summit

LA PAZ, Feb 17. (AP): Farmers and government officials say the Cartagena drug summit will have no immediate impact on Bolivia's anti-drug campaign.

However, the officials are pleased that the United States recognises a shared responsibility for cocaine trafficking and will provide more financial support for alternative crops to replace coca grown by Bolivian farmers.

"In the short term I don't think the Cartagena summit will have much impact on fighting cocaine trafficking," Information Minister Manfredo Kempff told the Associated Press. "In a medium term, though, we should be able to come on greater collaboration from the United States."

President Jaime Paz Zamora attended the Thursday summit in Cartagena, Colombia, along with the presidents of Peru, Columbia and the United States.

In their communiqué, the four presidents noted that persuading Andean farmers to turn from coca production to legal crops would have "significant, immediate and long-term economic costs" on Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

US President George Bush pledged to request an economic aid package from Congress for fiscal 1991 to 1994 to help offset these losses, the communiqué said.

"Some critics say we received no firm monetary commitments," Kempff said. "We went to Cartagena for the US to understand our position, to make a firm commitment to fight against cocaine trafficking and from there identify the fight with greater foreign collaboration. Now the effective collaboration must come."

Evo Morales, leader of the Chapare Cocoa Leaf Farmers Union, said the Cartagena summit did not provide concrete programmes to address the needs of farmers.

"In the summit declarations there is nothing clear and it does not assure us markets or prices for alternative crops. We do not trust the Bolivian or American governments," Morales said.

Pastor Vélezquez, leader of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, or FSLN, is being challenged in the Feb 25, national elections by Violeta Chamorro, the candidate of the United National Opposition, or UNO. Nicaraguan voters also will elect representatives to the country's national assembly.

Ortega, the candidate of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, or FSLN, is being challenged in the Feb 25, national elections by Violeta Chamorro, the candidate of the United National Opposition, or UNO. Nicaraguan voters also will elect representatives to the country's national assembly.

Ortega, in his campaign speech, referred to UNO as the "GN-1" — a reference to the initials of the feared national guard of former dictator Anastasio Somoza, who was ousted by the Sandinista Front in July 1979.

The President suggested that the United States is concerned that the Sandinistas will win the elections.

"The President of the United States has already admitted the defeat of the GN-1 and his willingness to get along with the Nicaraguan government in the future," Ortega said.

**Evangelist testifies:** An evangelist being tried for murder in Milton in Florida in the alleged exorcism death of a 4-year-old denied in an interrogation reported Friday that she ever told the girl's mother how to rid the toddler of evil spirits.

The denial came in a taped interview played by prosecutors in the trial of Mary Nicholson, 40, who is charged with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse in the February 1988 death of Kimberly McZinc.

Prosecutors are trying to prove that Nicholson was instrumental in persuading the child's mother, Darlene Jackson, to starve and beat McZinc in an alleged effort to rid her of six demons.

Jackson, 33, who pleaded guilty last year to third-degree murder and neglect, spent three days on the witness stand earlier this week. (UPI)

**Laundering figure missing:** A member of former governor Jerry Brown's administration facing trial on money-laundering charges was reported missing Friday in San Diego, prompting prosecutors to seek a warrant for his arrest.

Hours after he was reported missing, Richard T. Silberman's light-blue 1975 Mercedes-Benz, which he was supposed to have driven to an appointment in Orange County Thursday night, was found in an airport parking lot at Lindbergh Field, police said.

Silberman was also seen purchasing an airline ticket Thursday afternoon on a 6:05 pm US air flight to Los Angeles International Airport, police said.

"It is not known whether Mr Silberman boarded that flight.... There is no indication at this time that foul play was involved," a police statement said. (UPI)

**Mail bombings probe:** A man targeted in the probe of mail bombs sent to judges and lawyers across the southeast twice appealed a case to the court on which a slain judge sat, a court official said Friday in Atlanta.

Federal Appeals Court Judge Robert Vance was one of two victims of the bombs sent to targets in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

Walter Leroy Moody, one of three men investigated by the FBI in connection with the mail bombs, was charged in 1983 with attempted murder in Florida.

The case resulted in a mistrial, and Moody fled a lawsuit alleging malicious prosecution and false arrest. It was thrown out, and he appealed the dismissal in December 1988.

A panel of the Florida Federal Appeals Court, including Vance, dismissed Moody's appeal. A court official, who asked that his name not be used, said the panel did not hold a hearing and Moody never appealed before the court. (UPI)

**Out of many come one:** New York State officials Friday started the ball rolling toward revision of history textbooks to reflect the roles of ethnic groups other than white Europeans.

State education commissioner Thomas Sobol said he doesn't want to rewrite facts, but rather include "differing perspectives on the same fact."

Holding up a nickel, Sobol said that the textbooks should reflect the "pluribus" as well as the "unum" in the nation's motto of "e pluribus unum"—out of many come one. (UPI)

**Hazelwood didn't seem drunk:** A coast guard investigator said in Anchorage that Joseph Hazelwood smelled of alcohol but otherwise did not appear drunk the night his Exxon Valdez went aground, causing the nation's worst oil spill.

Mark Delozier, one of the first officers to board the Exxon Valdez after it rammed a reef last March 24, testified Friday that he called for someone to administer blood and urine tests to the crew after first encountering Hazelwood and smelling liquor on his breath. (AP)

**Labour oppose polls under Avril:** Britain's biggest labour unions said Friday they would oppose any elections organised by the military government of Prosper Avril, which they said is not committed to a transfer of power to freely elected civilians.

Virtually all political parties, angered by a crackdown on government critics in January, also have refused to take part in presidential elections scheduled for October. (AP)

**No clue to Colombia kidnaps**

BOGOTA, Feb 17. (AP): Prayers were held Friday for one of three US men kidnapped to protest President George Bush's visit to Colombia, and police said they had no leads in the investigation.

"We have absolutely nothing... in leads at all," a police spokesman in the

Drexel, Trump and Perrier in troubled times

## Yuppies sans symbols

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (Reuters): For stylish young professionals, the high-flying, affluent 1980's have come to an abrupt end, six weeks behind schedule. In a week, they lost three key symbols of their quick success.

Known as yuppies, the young upwardly mobile professionals here couldn't even drown their sorrows in Perrier.

Junk-bond King Drexel Burnham Lambert surrendered to financial troubles, arrogant billionaires Donald Trump became a target of lurid tabloid reports and Perrier — the mineral water that stood for a health-conscious decade — pulled its product from store shelves worldwide.

"In one week you have Trump, Drexel and Perrier — you couldn't ask for much better evidence of a decade's passing," said Kurt Andersen, co-editor of the satirical magazine Spy.

"Drexel, which dominated the market for the high-risk, high-yield junk bonds that fuelled its 1980s takeovers, put itself up for sale on Monday to

avoid financial collapse.

Wall Street experts said there was little interest in buying the once-powerful firm. After pleading guilty to insider-trading charges and paying \$650 million in fines, it still has potential legal troubles.

Drexel's announcement further tarnished the glitz of Wall Street.

Only a few years ago ambitious college graduates made hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in their first jobs there. They justified that with the 1980s business mantra "greed is good" and didn't worry too much about how it might all end.

"It looks like it's over for us," said one of Drexel's 5,300 employees last week. "We were told: 'Look for a job.'"

On Fifth Avenue, Donald Trump, the man who personified the self-absorbed, larger-than-life image of the 1980s and seemed to have the world at his feet, faced his own apparently self-made problems.

The man who named his glitziest buildings after himself and loves to manipulate media coverage had reports of his alleged philandering splashed on the front pages of New York tabloids amid what promised to be a messy divorce.

And Perrier, which in 1988 sold Americans \$550 million worth of its pure French spring water, issued a massive recall after it found some traces of the solvent benzene.

Drexel, at least, seemed to elicit little sympathy.

"My guess would be that some people will think that this in fact will be a good thing — here are all these high-fliers who got what's coming to them," said Charles O'Reilly, a University of California sociologist.

Said Andersen, whose magazine made its reputation on celebrity-bashing. "I don't doubt that within some relatively short time they will find some new vehicle to live the kind of good life with other people's money."

## Trump playing waiting game

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (UPI): Billionaire Donald Trump has no immediate plans to file for divorce but is waiting to see if his estranged wife, Ivana, will go to court to invalidate a pre-nuptial agreement giving her \$20 million to \$25 million, his attorneys said yesterday.

Jay Goldberg and Stanford Sorkin, representing the real estate development tycoon, said divorce is not the issue at this time.

"The issue in the case is whether the agreement can be attacked successfully," said Goldberg. "My position is that she is trying to knock down a steel door with a feather."

The law is clear that this agreement cannot be attacked. She has to show that the original agreement and three subsequent updates she signed were unconscionable — that a sane person of normal mental abilities would not have entered into them.

"It's difficult to set aside one agreement," he said. "No, this is just a publicity circus for a person who does not have the law on her side."

Earlier in the day Lotwin announced that no legal action has been started or filed by his client, indicating Trump has chosen to play a waiting game with his wife.

"We have no such plans," Lotwin said. "My client, Donald, has no plans to sue Ivana at this time."

Mrs Trump's parents have joined her from Czechoslovakia for the drawn-out marital battle that has been called "the divorce of the new decade."

Trump, 43, walked out on his glamorous wife last Friday. Ivana, 40, is holding out for more than the sum provided in the pre-nuptial agreement, which also gives her a Greenwich, Conn., mansion and custody of their three children. She signed the agreement in 1977 and agreed to three updates since, most recently two years ago.

She is also hanging on to her job as president and managing director of Trump's prestigious Plaza Hotel and the 50-room duplex apartment in Trump Tower that she once shared with her husband.

She was joined there by her electrical engineer father, Milos Zehnecik, who flew in from Prague to be with her for her 41st birthday next Monday. Mrs Trump has told friends she would prefer a reconciliation with Trump to any other solution to their marital troubles.

She has been encouraged to seek a reconciliation by her mother, Maria Zehnecikova, who has been staying in New York since the Trump marriage began to break up during their Christmas stay in Aspen, Colo., last December.

It was in Aspen that she had a confrontation with Marla Maples, 26, an aspiring actress and former Miss USA contestant from Georgia, who reportedly is the "other woman" in the Trump breakup.

The New York Post reported that Maples "once gushed to friends that Donald Trump gave her 'the best sex I've ever had' and described him as a 'wonderful, wonderful lover.'

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Gung ho!

Alberto Stark of the Canadian Kawanakas Indian tribe, famous for their ability to fearlessly work and scale New York's skyscrapers, climbs up the Eiffel Tower in Paris during the filming of an adventure series for French television. (Reuter wirephoto)

## De Klerk delays talks

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 17, (Agencies): President Frederik de Klerk plans to study the African National Congress' decision to send a delegation to South Africa for direct talks before he comments on the proposal, a spokesman said today.

The ANC's announcement yesterday was the first official response to the racial reforms De Klerk launched Feb 2 that included the lifting of the 30-year ban on the ANC and the release of black leader Nelson Mandela.

"Obviously the president is not going to react to newspaper or wire service reports," said Casper Venter, director of liaison and information in the state president's office. "He is waiting for a copy of the complete text and in his own time he will decide how to answer it."

In its announcement issued at the end of a three-day conference in Lusaka, the ANC's national executive committee also said it would re-establish the movement in South Africa for the first time in 30 years and prepare for the return of exiles.

Earlier this week, De Klerk said the government was ready to enter into immediate talks with the ANC. In an interview with the ABC programme "Nightline", De Klerk said the ANC must "walk across the threshold and start talking."

If the direct talks occur, they would be the first between a South African president and the 78-year-old ANC.

The ANC wants De Klerk to end a three-year-old state of emergency, repeat restrictive legislation, halt political trials and remove troops from black townships.

ANC sources said talks with the South African president would focus on how to implement the legislation of the movement. De Klerk lifted a 30-year-old ban on the ANC on February 2.

The ANC, based in Lusaka, says its political activities are hampered by the state of emergency and other repressive laws.

"You cannot give one the right

to life while it remains illegal to breathe, eat and drink," an ANC source said.

Mandela, 71, said this week the removal of these restrictive laws would break down obstacles to talks. "These are the obstacles holding us up. However, I think the atmosphere may be conducive to negotiations," he added.

Western diplomats held out hope of a compromise on

negotiations. "It is very certain that the two groups will have to reach some form of compromise. The ANC does not have to be greedy in its demands and the South African government has to give away quite a bit," one said.

Mandela said yesterday he is ready to meet De Klerk to try to launch talks on resolving South Africa's racial conflict.

## Charles fails to score, but team wins

VERO BEACH, Florida, Feb 17, (AP): Prince Charles didn't score, but his team won the first of two polo matches the heir to the British throne is to play this weekend for charity.

Nearly 2,000 polo fans and royalty-watching came out to see the 40-year-old Prince of Wales and his Windsor Park teammates defeat Canada's Maple Leaf squad 11-7 yesterday afternoon at the Windsor Park Polo Club, located about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Vero Beach in the community of Orchid.

The prince arrived in Vero Beach yesterday under the watchful eyes of British and US security officers. The polo match was his first public appearance in a week-long visit to the United States.

## New El Nino caution

### Climate change forecast

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (AP): Government scientists say changing water temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean may be signaling the start of a new El Nino that could cause powerful climate changes worldwide.

Current conditions resemble those of 1986, a relatively mild version of El Nino, which has caused widespread devastating weather in the past.

"The current situation deserves very close attention," the federal climate analysis centre said in a statement yesterday.

The El Nino in 1982-83 led to weather changes that were blamed for 1,500 deaths and billions of dollars in damage across the globe.

"We don't want to say something is developing that could be like that, because that was exceptional," Dr Vernon Kousky of the climate centre said in a telephone interview.

The 1982-83 El Nino was blamed for worsening the devastating drought in Africa, causing severe winter storms to come ashore in California, spawning the first typhoon to strike French Polynesia in 75 years — followed by five more in five months — deluging Peru and Ecuador with torrential rains and promoting the worst drought in two centuries in Australia.

The United Nations estimated overall damage at between \$2 billion and \$8 billion.

Scientists suggest that was a once-in-a-lifetime event, however. The El Nino in 1986-87 was closer to average, bringing some weather changes but not the massive damage of the earlier event.

Formerly called El Nino-Southern Oscillations, or ENSOs, these events are characterized by unusually warm water conditions in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean and by changes in air pressure over different parts of that ocean.

Water temperatures have risen 1 and 2 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. While that may seem small, the great amount of energy needed to warm such a large mass of water can make it a significant increase.

Years ago, when such changes tended to be the first noticed by South American fishermen around Christmas, the phenomenon was given the name El Nino, which is Spanish for child, a reference to the Baby Jesus.

Current conditions are similar to those prior to the 1986 event, said Kousky. But he added: "I can't really say how firm it looks... There is nothing to say this will hang in there tough and continue on. We're just monitoring it carefully."

If it does build into a full-fledged El Nino, the impact could be felt worldwide.

The problem is relocating warm water from one side of the Pacific Ocean to the other.



Martin with his youngest son Alex (Reuter wirephoto)

## Ransom paid for freedom

PAMPLONA, Spain, Feb 17, (Reuters): A ransom of \$300 million (300 million pesetas) was paid for a kidnapped Spanish businessman held by Basque separatists for 84 days, state security officials said today.

Industrialist Adolfo Villasola Martin, 49, was in good health after an ordeal confined in a small room, apparently below ground, in this town 400 km (250 miles) northeast of Madrid.

The businessman, who is married with three children, hitchhiked home after untangling himself from a tree where his ETA (Basque homeland and freedom) kidnappers had left him yesterday.

Officials said the ransom was paid in foreign currency in Brussels, through a company owned by the Villasola family, but gave no further details. Villasola's family has yet to confirm any ransom was paid.

The head of the Navarra government, Jesus Garcia Villasola, expressed concern today at the payment to ETA, fearing the money would be used to buy arms.

"This man is free because he has paid money and everyone knows what this will be used for," he told journalists.

Villasola was released as ETA leaders sought to reopen negotiations with the Madrid government, stalled after three months of talks in Algiers last year.

## Labour leads Tories in polls

LONDON, Feb 17, (Kuna): The British opposition Labour Party has increased its lead over the ruling Conservative Party to 12 percentage points, according to the latest opinion poll published here today.

The poll, conducted by NOP for the independent newspaper and BBC television, gave Labour 48 per cent, the Conservatives 36 per cent, the Liberal Democrats six per cent, the Green Party five per cent, the Social Democratic Party three per cent and others two per cent.



Train, tractor crash, 3 dead

At least three people were killed and several others wounded when the train "Galilei" collided with a small tractor with two wagons and derailed Friday morning in the Valais.

Composed uniquely of sleeping compartments, the "Galilei" was cruising at 120 km per hour at the time of the accident at the entry of the train station of Saxon.

Six wagons of the "Galilei" derailed and overturned.

The tractor, used for maintenance work on rail 1, which is reserved for direct passages.

Picture shows pedestrians on an overpass looking down at the twisted wreckage of "Galilei". (Reuter wirephoto)

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Doi casts an absentee ballot at a polling station. (Reuter wirephoto)



Hamada waves to supporters. (Reuter wirephoto)

90 million Japanese go to polls today

## LDP heading for victory

### Hamadas' debate reform

#### Wife wants to create second conservative party

TOKYO, Feb 17. (Reuter): Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, shrugging off scandals over money and sex, headed for a national election victory on Sunday that would extend its 34-year hold on power.

Big gains in Parliament also predicted for the Japan Socialist Party, headed by Takako Doi, Japan's first woman political leader.

The conservative, pro-business government party appeared set for a clear majority as the election campaign ended today.

An eve-of-poll voter survey published by the daily Asahi Shimbun showed nearly 40 per cent ready to back the LDP, more than at the last lower house election in 1986, when the party held power in a landslide with 295 out of a total 512 seats.

But the Asahi poll of more than 100,000 voters also projected major advance for the JSP, the main opposition group. Analysts said it should win at least 130 seats.

The left-wing party held just 85 seats when Parliament was dissolved last month but the predicted gain would not be enough on its own to wrest power from the LDP.

About 90 million are eligible to vote on Sunday in 130 constituencies across the country. Voting begins at 7 am (2200 GMT Saturday) and ends at 6 pm (0900 GMT Sunday).

First returns are expected from around 7.30 pm (1030 GMT) on Sunday and computer projections of the results could be available as early as 10.30 pm (1330 GMT).

#### KAL, Aeroflot accord reached

SEOUL, Feb 17. (AP): South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed to start passenger air service to each other's capitals next month, the South Korean government announced today.

The agreement marked a major step toward improving relations between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations.

The Transportation Ministry announced that it has approved an air accord that Korean Air (KAL) concluded with the Soviet state airliner, Aeroflot.

## 10 pc US troops cut in Japan

### Cheney to tell Tokyo of long-term plan

TOKYO, Feb 17. (Reuter): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will tell Japan during a visit next week he plans a 10 per cent cut in US troop strength here. Kyodo News Agency reported today, quoting government sources.

Cheney is due in Tokyo from the Philippines on Tuesday on the last leg of an Asian visit.

He confers on Thursday with Juro Matsumoto, director general of Japan's defence agency (ministry).

Cheney was expected to tell Matsumoto the United States would withdraw gradually about 5,000 troops or 10 per cent of total US troops

strength in Japan over an extended period, Kyodo said.

The defence secretary is under pressure from Congress to reduce military spending, and officials said he has plans for 10 to 12 per cent cut in the 102,000 US troops in the Pacific region.

Kyodo said the withdrawal would not reduce any military deterrence as it will exclude frontline troops.

Matsumoto would express Japan's hope that the US policy would not adversely affect the strategic and functional role of its forces in Japan, it added.

### Facing new threats in Golden Triangle drug war

## Opium king Khun Sa fights for control

MAE AI, Thai-Burmese border, Feb 17. (Reuter): Opium warlord Khun Sa is fighting new threats to his control over smuggling routes in the Golden Triangle, which had a bumper drug crop last year.

Thai border patrol police say rival bandit armies have stepped up attacks on drug-trafficking routes in the area in the past several weeks to try to seize control of a major exit point for last year's record production of opium, which is refined into heroin.

"This is our last shot at cleaning up the resistance," said

Colonel Khaun Sai, foreign affairs co-ordinator for Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army (MTA).

Bandit armies have been fighting for decades for control over the Golden Triangle, straddling remote and unpoliced corners of Thailand, Laos, Burma and China.

Breakaway elements of the Burma Communist Party, scattered and driven into exile in 1988-89 by a government campaign, have regrouped with Wa ethnic rebels to try to wrest control of trafficking routes from the MTA.

The two sides have been

locked in combat for the past few weeks over the exit at Maungtun (Doi Lang) just inside Burma, thought to be the Golden Triangle's main gateway.

New smuggling routes and big poppy harvests in this mountainous jungle have re-established South-East Asia as the main source of heroin reaching the West, narcotics experts in Thailand say. Opium is made from the poppy flower.

Thai narcotics officials said last year's opium crop reached 1,200 tonnes, and may double this year.

They blamed American cuts in

aid to Rangoon after the Burmese army squashed a nationwide uprising in 1988. Increased tension in Burmese cities and a guerrilla war in the south had also diverted resources from the area, they said.

The mainly ethnic Shan MTA claims to have built up its strength from 8,000 in 1983 to nearly 20,000 at present.

Chin Meng, spokesman for the United Wa States Army (UWSA), said 4,000 Wa troops were sent into the area to capture one of Khun Sa's three major strongholds at Doi Lang, opposite Chiang Mai province.

Cheney said he intended to stress that despite the rumblings from Congress for troop cuts and sharply reduced military budgets, "our interests in the region will continue."

Tokyo university recognises brain death

TOKYO, Feb 17. (JAP): An ethics committee of Tokyo University Medical Science Research Institute approved a plan today to perform a liver transplant involving a brain-dead donor, the committee chairman said.

Prof Kazuya Yamanouchi, who heads the seven-member ethics committee, told a nationally televised news conference his committee hopes the action would stir public concern and build "social consensus" to recognise brain death.

Japanese doctors have long avoided undertaking organ

transplants because Japanese law does not recognise brain death, blocking the supply of transplantable organs.

Brain death is a condition in which all functions of the brain are determined to have irreversibly ceased.

Yamanouchi said liver for transplantation must be obtained from a brain-dead donor because freshness is crucial to such an operation.

The planned liver transplant can now be performed as soon as such a donor is available, officials of the medical

institute said.

## Filipino Muslims vote amid violence

### Attempt to end insurgency by allowing more local rule

MANILA, Feb 17. (Agencies): Voters in Muslim-dominated southern provinces went to the polls yesterday to elect their first autonomous Muslim government, despite a wave of bombings, political brawls and ballot theft.

The elections are being held under a plan by President Corazon Aquino to meet popular demand and blunt a Muslim insurgency in the region by allowing more local rule.

Four candidates were running for regional governor, seven for vice-governor, and 137 for 21 assembly seats in four Muslim-dominated provinces in the south, according to commission on election records.

The four provinces — Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu —

voted to join the regional government in a referendum covering 13 southern provinces and cities in November.

A bomb exploded on the eve of the polls, and another blast occurred an hour before polling stations opened today at 7 am in the town of Jolo, 960 kilometres (600 miles) south of Manila, said Maj. Hermogenes Esperon, a spokesman for the military's southern command.

No one was reported injured, and no one has claimed responsibility for the bombings.

"We hope that with the assurance of the armed forces ... this election will be a clean and credible one," said commission on elections executive director Vicente

## Cheney plays down snub

HONG KONG, Feb 17. (AP): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said today he plans to play down his highly publicised spat with Philippine President Corazon Aquino and focus on "the things that unite us" during his talk next week in Manila.

"I would hope that any unpleasantness is minimised," Cheney said during an interview aboard the US air force jet carrying him to this British colony from Seoul, South Korea.

Cheney's schedule today included lunch with Hong Kong Gov. Sir David Wilson. He planned to meet tomorrow with the US Ambassador to the Philippines, Nicholas Platt, before travelling to Manila on Monday.

Cheney decided last week to shorten his stay in the Philippines by a day after Aquino announced she would refuse to see him because of negative US press coverage of her government and US payments for the use of six military bases in the Philippines.

Cheney is on a two-week tour of the Pacific rim to reassess the US military role in the region. He was expected to inform the Philippine and Japanese governments that they can expect a 10 per cent to 12 per cent cut in US troops based in Asia over the next three years, and that the US Congress is unlikely to keep paying as much for their support as in the past.

In South Korea, Cheney reaffirmed Washington's "unequivocal" security commitment to that nation but said the United States plans by 1993 to cut 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the 120,000 American troops stationed in Asia.

He said some 5,000 troops would be withdrawn from South Korea and another 97,000 to 9,400 pulled out of the Philippines and Japan. Details of the cuts will be worked out later, he said.

"We are not going to move precipitously ... our commitment remains strong," he said.

Today, Cheney characterised his Manila visit as "an important stop."

The defence secretary pointed out that his discussions came at a crucial juncture in US-Philippine relations, with talks expected to open next month on renewal of the leases for Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and several other military posts.

"We've got major negotiations about to begin with the Philippines on the bases," he said.

"I think the things that unite us, that we've got in common, are a good deal more significant than any momentary stress in the relationship," Cheney said. "I would expect to focus on and emphasise those things — (such as) the historic ties between our two countries."

Cheney said he intended to respond in a very low-key fashion to Aquino's decision not to receive him. "I think the president has tried to keep all of that on an even keel as well."

US President George Bush issued a rare public rebuke to Aquino for refusing to meet with his defence secretary, saying in an interview that "she can learn a great deal from Dick Cheney about the way we view the very important US presence in the Pacific."

Cheney said he intended to stress that despite the rumblings from Congress for troop cuts and sharply reduced military budgets, "our interests in the region will continue."

He also said general elections and "Western democracy" were not suitable for Hong Kong, while "keeping certain power for the central government will benefit Hong Kong and bring it no harm."

However, many Hong Kong residents fear the new constitution will not go far enough in forcing China to keep its promises of allowing the capitalist system to remain for 50 years after the 1997 takeover and of letting Hong Kong exercise a high degree of autonomy.

During the meeting, he emphasised the need for stability and warned that after 1997 "if (people) try to turn Hong Kong into a base of opposition to the mainland in the name of 'democracy' ... we will definitely interfere."

He alluded to the lack of confidence Hong Kong residents have in the document's ability to help the territory maintain its capitalist system and a high degree of autonomy.

Confidence in China's promises plummeted after the June 4 military crackdown on China's pro-democracy movement, which was widely supported in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong on Friday, the passage of the final basic law draft was greeted with renewed demands for a faster pace of democratisation.

About 1,500 students chanting pro-democracy slogans and carrying placards marched to the Chinese diplomatic mission, and the government announced plans to sharply increase the pace of democratic development next year.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd faced a barrage of hostile questions in Parliament on Friday and said the constitution was "not ideal" but a "reasonable ... basis for the future."



Delegates of the Chinese and Hong Kong Basic Law drafting committee pose for a photograph to commemorate the drafting of the future constitution of Hong Kong. At the front from left to right are President Deng Xiaoping, senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Deng praises HK drafters

### Hurd faces questioning

BEIJING, Feb 17. (AP): Senior leader Deng Xiaoping of China today met with the authors of Hong Kong's proposed constitution for Chinese rule and called their work "a masterpiece of creativity."

Deng walked slowly but without help to greet the drafters, who were standing on bleachers for a group photo. He shook hands with those in the front row and chatted with Hong Kong business tycoon Li Ka-Shing.

His voice was shaky and somewhat slurred, but he otherwise appeared healthy.

Ji Pengfei, chairman of the drafting committee and director of the Hong Kong Macau affairs office, said in his closing remarks later in the morning that the basic law "reflects the great thinking of (the) one country, two systems" policy.

He said that the drafting committee is now faced with making "the basic law a part of the popular feeling in Hong Kong."

He alluded to the lack of confidence Hong Kong residents have in the document's ability to help the territory maintain its capitalist system and a high degree of autonomy.

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Ryzhkov listens intently to reporters' questions during a press conference in Singapore. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Soviets back UN plan for Cambodia

SINGAPORE, Feb 17. (UPI): Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said today he would welcome a UN interim administration in Cambodia, but refused to hint aid to Phnom Penh as long as other countries send aid to the rebels.

In a wide-ranging news conference marking the conclusion of his visit to the Asia-Pacific region, Ryzhkov said the Soviet Union was anxious to beef up trade and economic co-operation with the region.

Most of his comments focused on Cambodia, where a loose alliance of three resistance groups is attempting to reach a peace settlement with the Vietnamese-backed government, which took power in 1978 after Vietnam overthrew the Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot.

"We stand for a political settlement to end the 11-year-old conflict," Ryzhkov said. "We will stop our arms supplies providing reciprocal steps are taken by the others."

One of the resistance groups, loyal to exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has been receiving military backing from China and non-lethal assistance from the United States.

Sihanouk has rejected the Soviet proposal to unilaterally halt arms supplies on all sides, saying it would be impossible to stop secret shipments from Vietnam to the Phnom Penh government.

The Cambodian factions, along with the six nations belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and Vietnam and Laos meet in Jakarta next week for peace talks.

Two earlier attempts to settle the dispute in Jakarta and Paris failed to make any significant headway, but Vietnam recently indicated it would be willing to accept a UN presence in Cambodia. The role of the United Nations had been a major stumbling block in the ongoing discussions.

The foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations endorsed a standing Australian plan for ending the war in Cambodia.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters that he and his counterparts from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore had endorsed the initiative.

## Jakarta plotters executed

JAKARTA, Feb 17. (AP): Four former members of the Indonesian palace guards under the late President Suharto have been executed for their involvement in a failed coup attempt 25 years ago, a government spokesman said today.

Brig. Gen. Nurhadi Purwoatmojo, spokesman for the Indonesian armed forces, confirmed that Soleman, Noor, Tohayana, Satar, Suryanto and Yohanes Surono had been put to death last Tuesday.

All were arrested following the abortive communist coup on Sept. 30, 1965. They were charged with kidnapping and killing Gen. Ahmad Yani, head of the army.

Officials gave no reason why the four remained on death row for 25 years, but delays in carrying out earlier executions were said to have been made to allow time for the accused to divulge information about their subversive activities.

In Washington, D.C., Asia Watch, a US-based human rights organization, asked world leaders today to condemn the executions.

# Romanian defence chief forced to quit

## New minister is choice of military

BUCHAREST, Feb 17. (AP): Defence Minister Victor Anasate Stanculescu, who took over the military today, was the choice of officers who forced the resignation of his predecessor, Nicolae Militaru.

The shakeup last night climaxed a week-long protests by junior and middle-level officers demanding the dismissal of 74-year-old Militaru, who, for years followed orders from Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist dictator toppled in December.

On Thursday night, state-run television broadcast a frank but edited tape of talks between Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voiculescu and 58 officers from 38 units who presented a list of 13 demands, including Militaru's resignation.

At one point, Voiculescu asked the officers who they would want as defence chief if not

Militaru. They said Stanculescu, a lieutenant general who was minister of national economy.

Interim President Ion Iliescu's announcement that he had accepted a request to remove Militaru and had appointed Stanculescu to replace him did not say who would succeed Stanculescu at the Ministry of National Economy.

The announcement defused the first challenge by the military to the government it helped create in December's revolution.

The 21-member executive bureau of the ruling Council of National Unity, at its first meeting yesterday, endorsed the creation of a commission to investigate all the officers' demands and expressed hope that the measures taken by the government would restore calm. Iliescu heads the bureau.

Thousands of civilians had flocked to Victory Square in

Bucharest to support the officers, whose decision to back the popular uprising in December was crucial to winning the revolution. Similar demonstrations were held in the western city of Timisoara and the port of Constanta.

The newspaper *Tineretul Liber* reported today that a big demonstration backing the officers was also held in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city, yesterday. Protesters shouted, "The army is with us, and we are with army" and "where are Brasov's terrorists?"

The newspaper *Adevărul* reported today that before Iliescu's announcement, the national news agency *Rompres* had received a statement from the military central command's key committee of initiative backing the officers' call for Militaru's



Stanculescu at a press conference.



A worker raises his list to protest against the new Romanian government and the introduction of their policies during a demonstration in Bucharest.

■ An Aids epidemic among Romanian children has reached critical proportions, with at least 200 suffering from the disease and 800 infected with the virus that causes it, a senior Red Cross official said in Geneva.

recalled to active duty during the revolution.

Navy officers from Tulcea in the Danube Delta also backed the officers, the newspaper *Romania Liberal* reported.

# Bush signs bill on China

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Feb 17. (AP): US President George Bush, in a new clash with Congress over China policy, says he'll ignore parts of an act that he considers an infringement on his right to conduct diplomacy.

Bush late Friday signed a \$9.8-billion State Department spending bill that reinforces sanctions on China and requires that Congress be notified when such secret missions as National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's visit last June to Beijing are undertaken.

The President, at his oceanside home for a three-day weekend, signed the bill but voiced serious objections to those sections and several others which he said raised "constitutional difficulties."

The constitution gives the president exclusive power "to receive and appoint ambassadors and to conduct negotiations on behalf of the United States with foreign governments," Bush told Congress.

The overall legislation authorizes \$4.8 billion for the State Department and related agencies for the fiscal year that began last Oct 1, and another \$3 billion for fiscal 1991.

Bush vetoed an earlier version of the legislation, not only because of the China sanctions, but due to an amendment that would have prohibited the administration from seeking third-country financing of insurgent groups, such as the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras.

Congress dropped that proposal from the current legislation. US support of the Contras was phased out under a bipartisan accord with Congress.

The bill writes into law sanctions identical to those Bush imposed on China after last June's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing, including a ban on military sales to China and restrictions on trade and loans.

"Legislatively mandated sanctions represent an unwise constraint upon the president's ability to conduct foreign policy," Bush continued.

However, Bush signed the bill with the assertion he would not follow sections he considered unconstitutional.

He noted the legislation allows him to waive sanctions on grounds of "national interest" and suggested this clause put enough flexibility into the measure to allow it to escape a veto.

The sanctions remain in effect for now and Bush has no immediate plans to lift them, said deputy press secretary Stephen Hart.

Bush said he would disobey the section of the legislation that would require the State Department to give Congress a full report on any politically sensitive secret diplomatic contacts.

■ China said it will never accept the Dalai Lama's attempt to establish an "independent Tibet," stressing there is no room for bargaining on the issue.

## Mongolia pulls down Stalin bust

ULAN BATOR, Feb 17. (Reuter): Mongolia's communist government has decided to remove the last statue of hated Soviet leader Joseph Stalin from an Ulan Bator street, signaling another concession to democratic demands sweeping this remote land.

The official Uren newspaper said today the decision to cart away a huge black statue of the dictator was taken by the ruling communist politburo in democratic consideration of the people's wishes.

"The statue has received much displeasure from the public," said the newspaper. "According to the principle of justice and democracy (it will be pulled down)."

The Politburo's move was the latest in a series of government concessions to a wave of popular demand for deep political and economic changes to Mongolia's 68-year-old communist system.

A newly-formed Mongolian Democratic Association will hold its first Congress tomorrow, at which some 500 nation-wide delegates are expected to make radical demands and proclaim themselves Mongolia's first opposition party.

Western diplomats said the ruling Mongolian Peoples' Revolution Party has been reforming fast in an attempt to narrow differences between their policies and the emerging opposition manifesto.

Mongolia, a land of just over two million people living on a territory three times the size of France, is the second oldest communist country and the latest of the Soviet Union's allies to feel the winds of democratic change.

# One Germany without Nato

## Soviet term for unity

WEST BERLIN, Feb 17. (Agencies): A top-ranking adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today "there won't be any German unification" if the West insists on a Nato membership for the combined German states.

The questions of Nato membership and the German military stance have become increasingly important as officials try to work out the details for reunifying East and West Germany.

"If the Western alliance sticks with its demand for a Nato membership of all of Germany, then there won't be any German unification," Valentin Falin said in an interview with Saarland state radio.

Falin called on Western nations to ensure peace in Europe.

"We are talking about doing away with the military factor in Europe overall," said Falin.

## Gorby gets too much pat

### West misinterpreting

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb 17. (AP): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev deserves praise for his foreign policy but gets too much credit for changes taking place in the Soviet Union, Soviet dissident Yelena Bonner said yesterday.

Tass said a man identified as Kh. Saidov was arrested in Samarkand for carrying 30 anti-Armenian leaflets and the Siab district court fined another man, L. Guseinov, 500 rubles (\$830) for advocating the eviction of Armenians and using force against them.

With ethnic and nationalist unrest percolating across the country, the Soviet parliament has decided to hold a special closed session to discuss the long-running conflict between Azerbaijanis against Armenians.

The announcement of the meeting, to be held on Monday, coincided with a report by the official Tass news agency that the mutilated bodies of 12 people — 11 of them Armenians — had been found in a sand pit in Azerbaijan.

In Lithuania, thousands of nationalists marking the 1918 declaration of an independent Lithuanian state turned in their Soviet military draft cards on Friday and prayed for home rule at peaceful rallies and church services.

But in the volatile Soviet south, tensions remained high.

Local journalists in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan predicted fresh unrest after local Communists' Party leaders refused to resign as their part of a deal aimed at ending riots which killed at least 18 people this week.

Soviet media said the situation was still tense in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, with self-defense units patrolling the streets and industries at a standstill.

The report was sent via facsimile to subscribing Western news organisations in Moscow.

On Friday, Tass, the official Soviet news agency, reported that inflammatory leaflets were being circulated in areas of Uzbekistan bordering Tajikistan.

They demanded "the immediate eviction of Russians from Central Asia" and demanded

service, a joint venture affiliated with Radio Moscow, as the source of its information.

No other state-run Soviet news media carried the report, which did not mention casualties or damage in Samarkand, or of colourfully tiled buildings, domed mosques and oriental bazaars. It was the capital of a 14th-century empire established

in 1988, millions of Burmese took to the streets demanding democracy and an end to authoritarian rule. The demonstrations were crushed on Sept. 18 that year when the present military government seized power. To suppress the uprising, the military government ordered a series of clampdowns in which troops shot thousands of people.

The military government has imposed martial law, which bans gatherings of more than five people, and imposes a nighttime curfew. It has promised to lift such restrictions before the end of the month.

The push for quick unification is worrying some states that suffered occupation by Nazi Germany, such as Poland.

Poland has asked to be included in talks on German unification between the two German states and the four World War II allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

East German Premier Hans Modrow on Friday endorsed the Polish request during a visit to Warsaw.

The new centre will be located several hundred yards (metres) away from the death camp site, which has been enshrined as a memorial to the hundreds of thousands of Jews and others killed there by the Nazis.

French Bishop Gaston Poulin on Friday announced a drive to raise funds among French Catholics for the interfaith centre, the WJC said.

Both Nato and Bonn have rejected this and said it must be in the Western alliance.

In East Berlin, the interim communist-led government said it was preparing a law that would allow private companies in such sectors as construction, transport, tourism and small- and middle-sized factories.

West Germany has urged East Germany to introduce comprehensive free-market reforms before giving more aid to the economically strapped neighbour.

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## Iqama rule relaxed for contracting sector

### No change in other regulations

By Hussain Salameh

THE existing law which prohibits the transfer of residence permits of expatriate labourers working in the private sector before the completion of a three-year period, is to be relaxed, sources at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the committee formed to follow up the implementation of the economic report said.

However, they clarified that this relaxation is only applicable to the contracting sector and does not cover or include other sectors or other labour regulations introduced last year.

Sources at the committee said that the

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is currently implementing the called-for relaxation on visa transfer instituted by the government-sponsored economic revival proposals.

The economic report proposal called on the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to "review the ministry's decision on the regulations of the labour sector by introduction of a relaxation in transferring visas from one sponsor to another to facilitate work demands in the contracting sector in particular."

#### Transfers

The ministry sources explained that the new relaxation applies to a large number of contracting labourers who are recruited by

certain companies. If these companies after completion of their present project do not win other contracts, they can transfer their labourers to other companies without the need to abide by the three years limit for transfer specified by regulations.

According to labour regulations introduced by the ministry early last year, labourers recruited from abroad were required to work with their sponsors for at least three years prior to transferring to other sponsors. In case the project was completed before the three year period, the companies that recruited these workers had to send them back. Now this term has been relaxed to allow the transfer of contracting labourers to other companies in

#### Kuwait

The ministry sources affirmed that the economic report does not require the ministry to do more than this. The follow up committee of the economic report agreed that the ministry measure was pragmatic. It added that leaving the transfer of sponsorship in the private sector without restrictions will certainly create confusion in the market particularly to employers.

Sources at the committee said that the refusal of any ministry or establishment to implement proposals of the economic report is not ruled out. But, such applicants must explain in writing to the Council of Ministers their reasons, as the report has been approved by the council.

## Kuwait in

### Co-op talks with Dadzie

GENEVA, Feb 17, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Geneva Sheikh Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday met with the secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), K.S. Dadzie.

As chairman of the Asian group in the Group of 77 developing countries, Dr. Sabah said his meeting with the secretary general covered a number of issues before the organisation, especially those related to the forthcoming eighth conference of UNCTAD.

Issues concerning ways of co-operation between the various groups of countries in UNCTAD were also discussed, he pointed out.

Dr. Sabah, who is also the chairman of the Arab group of ambassadors accredited to the United Nations in Geneva for this month, said the group will be calling on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Thornavald Stoltenberg next Thursday.

Asked about the issues to be discussed with the UNHCR, Dr. Sabah said the Arab ambassadors will use the occasion to congratulate the high commissioner upon his assumption of office and also discuss matters of co-operation.

Meanwhile, general director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) Frederick Meyer will commence official meetings today with Qatari officials in order to enhance means of co-operation in cultural fields between Qatar and Unesco.

Unesco's general director gave a statement upon his arrival at the airport last night, saying that the aim of his visit is to promote the needs of the state of Qatar from Unesco in the fields of culture, education and science.

Meyer described co-operation between Qatar and the organisation as historical and fruitful, pointing out that Qatar is an active participant in the activities of Unesco.



### Congratulations Palala

The Consul-General of the Philippines Embassy, Kuwait, Ms. Olivia V. Palala Wednesday hosted a reception to say thank you to friends who congratulated her on her recent promotion to the post. Ms. Palala is a popular figure in the Filipino community and is one of the youngest diplomats at the embassy. Ms. Palala is pictured with some of the friends who attended the reception at the Mabuhay Restaurant.

### From the courts

## Jewel thieves get five years

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men to five years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered their deportation. Another accused in the same case was released by the court. The three men were charged with robbing a house of KD30,000 worth of jewellery.

Security investigations revealed that the daughter of the victim was involved in a relationship with one of the accused. The convict proposed to his girlfriend through her mother and was refused. The daughter of the mother's victim told the court that one day when she was at the club, she had lost the keys of the house where she is living with her mother. Investigations revealed that the convict had stolen his girlfriend house keys and made a copy in order to use them in the robbery.

The stolen jewellery was given to the second convict by the first convict and was kept at the third accused's house. The third convict did know that the jewellery were stolen and therefore was released by the court.

THE Court of First Instance has ordered a local company to return the passport of one of its workers after he was dismissed from the services of the company.

The company had terminated the employee's

services, but refused to hand over his passport and the worker had moved the court.

The court in its decision said that according to the new labour law in the private sector as of 1989, the employer has no right to withhold the passport of any worker in the private sector.

Only the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has this right and accordingly the court ordered the employer to return the plaintiff's passport.

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court refrained from passing sentence against an accused on charges of taking nine valium tablets, a local daily reported.

The court was told that after a quarrel between a woman and her husband, the former went into her son-in-laws room and consumed nine valium tablets and was found in a coma.

The father-in-law reported the incident to the police and arrested that he was in possession of the valium through a medical prescription provided to him by the Al Sabah Hospital and produced the medical report.

The court took into consideration that the woman was suffering from a malignant tumour which was further aggravated with the state of her mind due to the recent quarrel and saw these as mitigating circumstances in refraining from passing judgement.

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### Iraqi labour minister arrives

KUWAIT, Feb 17, (Kuna): Iraqi Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Dr. Omeed Medhat Mubarak arrived in Kuwait before noon today on a three-day official visit.

In a press statement upon his arrival, Dr. Omeed said he is carrying wellwishes from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and the government and people of Kuwait.

Dr. Omeed expected the meetings he is to hold today with his Kuwait counterpart Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed to have positive and fruitful results in the fields of exchange of expertise and co-operation and co-ordination in the activities of specialised and Arab and international organisations.

Co-operation is under way in all fields and Sheikh Nasser is regularly consulted on all issues of interest to the people of both countries, said Dr. Omeed.

The company had terminated the employee's

## Education staff asked to vacate quarters

THE Education Ministry has issued a circular requesting some of its staff at the various administrative and technical departments to vacate their houses within a period not exceeding Feb 28. These houses were provided to them 10 years ago.

Ministry sources quoted by a local daily said that the ministry step was taken in response to a report by the Audit Bureau stating that the government houses provided to those ministry staff violated the enforced rules on government-supplied accommodations.

The sources pointed out that the once externally hired house-supplied staff would not be treated as locally-contracted employees, adding that the concerned staff were to furnish the relevant paperwork and procedure with the ministry's furnishing and accommodation control before the date specified.

Meanwhile the director of Ahmadi educational area Abdulla Al Laghami has said that the area is increasing efforts to develop the educational standards of pupils on the light of results of the first term of this scholastic year. Amongst the various efforts in this direction, the area will organise a series of meetings between him and the headmasters of schools, organise field visits to schools and focus on activating intensive classes for pupils who need them.

He added that Ahmadi area will take part in celebrations of the National Day and an exhibition for photography and another one for formative arts will be organised on the occasion. The two exhibits will display the products and works of pupils in all schools of Ahmadi area and prizes will be given to winners. The area will also organise Wafer Day under the patronage of the education minister which will include educational and entertainment programmes, he said.

Co-operation is under way in all fields and Sheikh Nasser is regularly consulted on all issues of interest to the people of both countries, said Dr. Omeed.

The company had terminated the employee's

## Changes in housing policy to be adopted

### Citizens warned against leasing

THE problem of providing housing to citizens will increase according to numerous studies that have been conducted and which are heavily influenced by two factors: impact of present public housing policy including complete dependence of most citizens on the government for providing ready-to-use homes, lack of standardisation in the construction of new homes and the personal attitude of Kuwaitis toward the public-housing programme expressed as lack of positive involvement in the planning and construction phases of house.

The viewpoint that government housing represents an opportunity for ownership instead of its intended purpose of providing suitable family shelter, and misuse of the financial loans provided by government to eligible citizens for the purpose of remodelling existing homes, are also factors adding to the problem.

It is thus seen as inevitable that certain fundamental changes be adopted in the present policy in order to achieve overall improvements in the public housing programme.

The report was issued on the occasion of the country's National Day celebration with the aim of shedding light on performance of the state's bodies as part of several reports covering different fields.

The bureau was established in 1964 as an independent body for financial controls.

Its responsibilities cover all ministries and public departments that make up the administrative apparatus of the state.

The independence of the bureau was meant to keep it away from any influence by the circles it controls in order to avert any pressure that may prejudice its performance as a control body.

The bureau is responsible for controlling tenders, agreements or contracts that may result in financial obligations on the state.

All government bodies are obliged by law not to commit themselves to any agreement without the approval of the bureau.

The bureau's sole solution for the housing problem is to constitute the sole solution for the NHA in the present scenario and enable it to continue its current housing plan.

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# ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

FROM the sublime to the ridiculous there is only one step.  
Napoleon Bonaparte, French general - statesman (1769-1821).

## Proving Jewishness New obstacles for immigrants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): Asya Gomelsky survived two pogroms in her 83 years. Never did she expect her Jewishness to be called into question in the Jewish state.

But this is what happened when Mrs Gomelsky's 50-year-old son Boris asked Israel's Interior Ministry for identity papers for his family. The Gomelskys, from the Soviet city of Kharkov, were turned away because they had no documents proving the family was Jewish.

Their story and similar tales surfacing with the new rush of Soviet immigrants have sparked protests by Soviet activists and complaints by four liberal parties over policies of the Interior Ministry, which is controlled by the ultra-orthodox Shas Party.

"Do you know what it is to question the Jewishness of those who have suffered for generations in the Soviet Union for being Jewish?" Robert Golani, head of a Soviet activist group, told the Jerusalem Post daily.

Mrs Gomelsky, who appeared on Israeli television this weekend, touched many Israelis with the tale of her sufferings during Russia's 1917 revolution and civil war.

"I survived two pogroms and was persecuted as a Jew, and here in Israel they tell me I'm not Jewish," Mrs Gomelsky wept. "In 1919 ... they wanted to rape my older sister and when my father tried to protect her they cut him with sabers, and we ran away to hide in the fields."

After the TV broadcast, several ministers questioned Interior Minister Arye Deri, a member of Shas, in a cabinet meeting Sunday. Soviet activists warned the following day they would take to the streets over Deri's policies.

But a visit to Interior Ministry offices here showed several recent Soviet arrivals who came from identity cards still were being turned away under the same policy.

"Go home and come back when you have papers showing you are Jews," an official told them to the protests of Israelis waiting in line.

Those rejected can get rent subsidies and other benefits as immigrants, but their ID cards do not say "Jewish." Without that word, the card's holder may have trouble with marriage, divorce or other personal matters controlled by the ultra-orthodox establishment.

For years, the Interior Ministry also has been ruled by the ultra-orthodox, for whom the mostly secular wave of Soviet Jews is a mixed blessing if not a direct threat.

The expected arrival of up to 300,000 Soviet Jews in the next three years could undermine Israel's delicate balance of power in which three ultra-orthodox parties and a religious one usually hold the key to forming coalition governments.

Neither of the country's two major parties, the right-wing Likud Bloc or centre-left Labour Party, have never won enough seats in the 12-member Parliament to govern on their own, meaning each scrambles to bring the religious parties into coalitions.

Over the years, Israel's religious community used this power to pass laws favouring the orthodox and enforce rules forcing businesses and entertainment spots to close on the sabbath; from sundown Friday till sundown Saturday.

The ultra-orthodox fear this may change with the Soviet Jewish immigration wave, which they claim includes many couples of mixed marriages and even non-Jews.

In mid-January, the ultra-orthodox Yom Hashishi weekly claimed that Israeli officials in Moscow "reject immigration requests of elderly religious Jews, preferring young intellectual couples in spite of a large percentage of mixed marriages among them."

"This selection will change in the coming years the face of the Israeli society," it charged.

Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer last week fuelled the controversy by saying up to 30 per cent of the Soviet immigrants were non-Jews trying to find a way to escape the Soviet Union.

Israel's law of return grants automatic citizenship to Jews — even descendants of a Jewish man — and their spouses, even if they are non-Jewish.

## Dissolution urged

MOSCOW, (Reuter): The Soviet Union's once omnipotent Communist Party, having agreed to forego its political monopoly, is now facing calls to take a final step — dissolution.

Firm supporters of Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* reforms are urging the Kremlin leader to rethink his proclaimed devotion to traditional Marx-Leninism and lead a new socialist party.

The calls to dissolve the party are so far coming mostly from radical intellectuals.

But there are signs that even dedicated members of the party, which has ruled the country for seven decades, are coming around to the view that its days are numbered.

"To achieve a total break with the past, the Soviet Communist Party has only one way out — self-dissolution," wrote Leningrad author Mikhail Chulak in the latest edition of Moscow News, a reformist weekly whose editorial offices were badly damaged in a fire overnight.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1574 — Dutch rebels seize Zeeland.
- 1685 — La Salle, French explorer, establishes first settlement in Texas.
- 1856 — Reform edict is published in Turkish empire.
- 1884 — British forces under General Charles Gordon reach Khartoum in Sudan, but the Mahdi rejects his offer to negotiate.
- 1900 — Piet Cronje surrenders to British at Paardeberg in South African war.
- 1915 — German blockade of England goes into effect as submarine war is intensified in World War I.
- 1945 — Pacific war battle for Iwo Jima begins in World War II.
- 1964 — Earthquakes rock Azores in eastern Atlantic, and ship battle high waves to evacuate people from San Jorge island.
- 1965 — African nation of Gambia becomes independent within British Commonwealth.
- 1970 — Young Filipinos storm US embassy compound in Manila protesting US military bases in Philippines and US economic policy.
- 1987 — Iraq announces two-week truce in its bombing campaign against Iranian cities in Gulf war.

## Soviet pullout marks one year

# Tribesmen yearn for peace

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (AP): A year after the Soviet army withdrew from their homeland, Afghan tribesmen turned rebels are still living in squallid camps in Pakistan and wondering when they can return home in peace.

Many seem as frustrated by factionalism among rebel leaders as by the staying power of their foes, communist President Najib.

"Most people don't care about the (rebel) leaders or Najib, they just want peace in Afghanistan," said one Afghan rebel who asked not to be identified.

After nine years and at least 13,000 Soviet deaths, the Red Army pulled out of Afghanistan Feb. 15, 1989. It left behind a stalemate on the battlefield, and Western observers predicted US-backed rebels would soon overrun government troops and snatch victory from a demoralized Afghan army.

Relying on more than \$1 billion worth of Soviet military and humanitarian aid over the last 12 months, Najib has kept the cities under his control, and dealt rebels a political thrashing.

The rebel leadership, headquartered in Pakistan, is concentrated in the hands of seven Afghans who range from Islamic fundamentalists to Western-oriented royalists.

But like Najib, who is seen by most Afghan exiles as a Soviet puppet, the rebel leaders are increasingly viewed as ineffective figures dependent on US and Pakistani support.

### Power

"Who has given these seven the power?" asked Naim Majrooh, head of a pro-rebel information centre. "Ask the friends of the Afghan resistance. It's not the people of Afghanistan."

The people, he said, have been dropped from the equation.

Majrooh said Afghans either have been terrorised into silence by some rebel leaders bent on carving out their political niche in the wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal, or they can't afford to speak up and risk losing their monthly stipend of food.

"They are dependent for everything in the camps and the economy inside the country has been so badly damaged," said Majrooh. "They have breakfast and they don't know where their dinner is coming from. They have been made into the silent majority."

More than 3 million Afghans live in warren-like camps throughout Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province. Another 2 million live in Iran.

The United States uses Pakistan as the conduit to funnel about \$500 million worth of military aid to the rebels each year.

But while Washington has been signing the cheques, Pakistan has been deciding who gets what. As a result, most of the aid has gone to a radical Muslim leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who shared the late president Gen. Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq's vision of Islam.

When Zia died in an August 1988 plane crash, the Afghan rebel leadership expected Hekmatyar to lose his favoured status.

Washington promised to keep a closer tab on the distribution of US aid after Hekmatyar's anti-US rhetoric heated up and stories of his party's brutal killing of rival rebels surfaced.

"But, nothing has changed," said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, president of the self-styled rebel government that is boosted by the United States and Pakistan as the engine behind a political end to the bloody and protracted war.

Several Afghan, Western and US sources corroborated Mojaddidi's claims. Some US observers in Pakistan questioned whether Washington wants to, or is able to, take control of the Afghan government, which remains under Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence, comparable to the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The ultra-orthodox fear this may change with the Soviet Jewish immigration wave, which they claim includes many couples of mixed marriages and even non-Jews.

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LENIN TURNING OVER IN HIS TOMB

## Tradition to the rescue

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (Reuters): Battled by failures on the battlefield and splits in its own ranks, the Afghan rebel leadership is falling back on tradition in its search for an end to the Afghan war.

A year after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan amid wild hopes of an imminent rebel victory, there's little talk in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar of military conquest.

Now the leaders want to convene a traditional grand council, or Loya Jirga, of Afghan leaders and intellectuals to choose a new and more broad-based government.

The mujahedeen, however, the bottom line remains the removal of US-backed government in Kabul.

**Settlement**

"We ourselves want a political settlement. We do not want to kill the people of Afghanistan but a political settlement, to keep our honour also

and to see that 11 years of struggle and 1.5 million victims ... are not wasted," the President of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said.

"Our opinion is that as soon as possible Najibullah must go and power must be transferred to our government or a government that will be decided by a Loya Jirga."

In talks in Moscow last week, US Secretary of State James Baker soft-pedaled Washington's insistence that Najibullah should go before any peace talks as long as he steps down as part of the process.

Most peace plans envisage some form of interim government in Kabul which could involve former King Zahir Shah as the only prominent Afghan un tainted by the conflict.

The king, who has lived in Rome since he was overthrown in 1973, has

been offered a role only if he has the support of an overwhelming majority of Afghans.

The United States, main supporter with Pakistan of the Afghan rebels, has been putting increasing pressure on the mujahedeen to make them selves a more credible alternative to Najibullah by including a broader cross-section of Afghans.

A disastrous attempt to capture Jalalabad city last year, infighting between rebel groups and the fear of Afghans left in the government-held cities of what the mujahedeen would face if they are blamed for the AIG's failure to make ground.

"I think this is the last chance for the leaders of the resistance," Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh said.

Six of the seven rebel groups in Peshawar are working on a plan to elect or select about 2,500 representatives from all over Afghanistan and among the five million refugees living in Pakistan and Iran, to form the Jirga.

## Letters to the editor

### Karachi violence

SIR: In some Pakistani circles, the contention is that the recurring violence in Karachi is extraneous. India has been implicated in fuelling riots and fanning political disruptions in Sind. Another point of view advocated, particularly by the end of Zia's era, was that the late president, in his foul attempts to maintain power endlessly, manipulated divergent political forces in Sind with the purpose of keeping national attention diverted from the nation's overwhelming push towards democracy. Yet, some political analysts suggest that the recent and the continuous outbreak of violence in Karachi, specifically and in the interior of Sind in general, is the making of opposing political parties and forces in Pakistan who wish to maintain power by those who beat on each other's backs for power from a legitimately elected government. It is said that every fair and unfair punch is being pulled to discredit one another. The Karachi situation comes as a handy political tool to inflict the desired damage on both sides.

Let us consider all of these possibilities one by one. It is true that India's possible role in the disturbances cannot simply be ruled out. India, itself faced with mounting ethnic and separatist problems, may perceive that its problems are harnessed by Pakistan's support. Or the Indian government may simply be pointing its finger towards Pakistan in order to divert the masses' attention from the problem within, seeking a scapegoat outside. To support this perceived scenario, India may actually be taking up much of the trouble in Sind. But to pin total responsibility of Sind's and Karachi's ethnic problems on India's shoulders would be a far-stretched exaggeration of reality. For the principles and the dynamics of ethnic unrest are that they breed on the basis of indigenous discontent; extremists in a sanguine society are not born, they are the products of psycho-socio-eco-cultural deprivations that plague a society for a considerably unreasonable span of time. India may be able to exploit indigenous discontent, but it would be beyond the powers of external force to implant the discontent with such managed ferocity.

Now I know it was all self-deception. For me, and many more of my generation, the party is dead and can never be brought to life again.

The mood of disillusionment is affecting the Supreme Soviet, the country's inner parliament.

deterioration of political conditions and has, in fact, enlarged the web of complexity of problems and, consequently, the resolutions of the issues. But that ought to be expected in the maturing of a political process, albeit excesses in Pakistan are quite phenomenal.

Then what is the nature of the problem and how can the issue be resolved? The foremost thing to do is to acknowledge the fundamental truth in the basis of the problematic: the fact is that despite of several intervening variables, external as well as internal, the constant variables in the Sind political disruptions are the MQM and the Sindhi's grievances. It is the exigency, *ex quo non*, to immediately and unconditionally acknowledge that the MQM and the Sindhis in the interior of Sind have several legitimate grievances. It is a fact that the MQM's community has been denied several economic and social facilities of course and has been treated as a minority, at times, contiguously, resulting in precarious psychological insecurity. The net result now is that the MQM has taken a belligerent political stand. Considering the prevailing everyday conditions, such a behaviour is now without reasons.

In the same way, the Sindhi culture and language has been subjected to various imprudent pressures, and long-awaited land reforms in the interior of Sind have not been forthcoming. Consequently, the economic conditions of the Sindhi "hari" have remained unchanged and have, in fact, become increasingly more difficult. In the absence of political recourse, long-delayed and overdue by at least two decades, the political conditions in the Sind province have become potentially threatening to the solidarity of Pakistan. It is a very precarious situation. With the Kashmir inferno blazing, India might attempt to seize upon the sympathies of the separatists in Sind.

**Realise**

We, as a nation, must also realise that the prevailing conditions in Sind are not the making of a person or of a particular party. All nations in the solidarity-making process go through several phases of highly polarised political enigmas. The enigmatic polarisation of such political forces become dangerous when the consequential enmity of such human phenomena is subjected to over-zealous emotionalism (as in the case of Pakistan now) and when the political mismanagement of such scenarios continues unabated. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is happening in Pakistan recently. Not everyone is a traitor in MQM and Sind, nor is everyone opposed to these forces everywhere else in Pakistan a patriot.

The government has been high on rhetoric, and the unfortunate negatively-oriented opposition has been single-mindedly attempting to escalate the cycle of violence to discredit Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in order to grab power in Islamabad. The welfare of the people has not been on the agenda yet. The opposition in Pakistan has not been playing a constructive role so far.

The political management of the crisis by the People's Party, on the other hand, has been lacking in foresight. The appointment of a judicial commission by the prime minister to probe the causes of the recent violence in Karachi is symptomatic of the fact that the government has not applied itself completely to fully understand the dynamics of the Karachi and Sind problems earnestly; in fact, it has chosen to take a

course that it considers politically more appropriate in face-saving, and not expedient in the resolutions of the issues. The idea is, let us find scapegoats and expose them to the public. The judicial commission probe will serve as a political gimmick to pin down the perpetrators of the so-called crimes, punish them, and allow the government to wash their hands of the responsibilities for the crisis. However, the commission report will not help curb the violence itself, particularly intermittently.

We already know that the present crisis is not the making of this government, however, the resolution of these problems is the responsibility of this administration.

It would be advisable for Islamabad to demonstrate a crisis-management approach rather than a legalistic orientation to the ensuing problems. Fortunately enough for the prime minister, there is an unparalleled peace in the Karachi crisis; seemingly, this situation poses the most serious threat to the prime minister's administration, however, she can take this hopeless situation and turn it into a winning card ensuring a public mandate for virtually indefinite continuation of her government.

**Reconstruction**

Starting from Karachi, the Prime Minister has to embark on an ambitious large-scale reconstruction plan to hit at the core of the economic, social, psychological, educational, employment, health and business deprivations of the slum areas of Karachi city. A construction of a new city, self-sufficient in every sphere, such as reasonable housing, schools, hospitals, shops and local markets, streets and street lighting, water and sanitary amenities, and above all, the absorption of all the unemployed persons, male and female, skilled, semi-skilled, and non-skilled.

This must get off the ground now. It would not be a new undertaking in Pakistan. Close to the troubled areas in Karachi is the self-sufficient city of the Pakistan Steel Mill. It could serve as a model for the new endeavour. Politically, the administration and the construction of the city (outside Karachi) must be done by incorporating the MQM and every other group in the low-lying troubled areas of Karachi. This must be an experiment in integration political strategy.

Pakistan can learn from the advanced nations and the Gulf Arab states that affluence and the economic well-being of the masses has proven to channel the political energies of a people into non-violent, constructive, peaceful and co-operative directions. In a large part, the violence in Karachi and Sind is the product of the absence of the economic well-being of the people in slums and the accompanying human deprivations that deprivations inflict on humanity.

Can we hope that the opposition will allow the elected government to do its job?

Dr Haider Mehdi,

K

# International terrorism on the decline

WASHINGTON, Feb 17. (AP): International terrorist incidents declined 25 per cent last year, in part because of a drop in Palestinian terrorism, but attacks by Iran-sponsored Shiite groups are on the rise, a US official said yesterday.

Preliminary figures compiled by the State Department also showed a 27 per cent drop in the number of fatalities from terrorist acts — from 660 to 485.

While no exact figure for terrorist incidents is available for 1989, it is about 25 per cent lower than the 1988 total of 856, an official said on condition of not being identified. The 1988 figure was 3 per cent higher than in 1987.

Experts attribute last year's decline to better security measures at airports, more commitment by governments to bring suspected terrorists to trial

and a drop in the activities of Palestinian groups.

The largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Fatah, has refrained from attacks in keeping with a pledge made in December 1988 by its leader, Yasser Arafat, the US official said. He predicted Fatah would continue on this course.

Less certain, he said, is the future of two radical Palestinian groups dormant in 1989: The Fatah Revolutionary Council headed by Abu Nidal and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jibril.

Abu Nidal's group has been paralysed by internal dissension that led the Libyan-based leader to order dozens of followers killed over the past two years, PLO sources said. Western sources confirmed those

accounts but said the group still posed a threat. They said some Abu Nidal operatives joined the Syrian-based PFLP-GC.

FBI and intelligence officials believe the PFLP-GC carried out the December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, in which 200 people were killed.

Syria has temporarily restrained the PFLP-GC because of the international outrage following the Pan Am disaster, said Ariel Merari, an expert on international terrorism from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Jibril is thought to have carried out the attack under contract to Iran, which has been accused of sponsoring dozens of terrorist acts around the

world. Iranian-sponsored terrorist activity has increased in the six months since the death of Iran's revolutionary leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini, officials said.

The State Department warned earlier this month that pro-Iranian extremists might plan a terrorist attack against Americans in Europe to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that brought Khomeini to power.

Indications of stepped up Iranian activity stem partly from a shipment of explosives intercepted last November in Barcelona, Spain. The explosives were sent from Lebanon by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah network of Shiite extremists.



**Savage battles in East Beirut**

Lebanese army troops loyal to defiant General Michel Aoun deploy in a street of Purn al-Chubak area in battered East Beirut after they gained it from Lebanese Forces following 20 hours of savage bombardment.



(At right) three Lebanese army soldiers use truck wheels as a barricade during savage battles. (Reuter wirephotos)

# Israeli settlement plan illegal, declares UN

US abstains but describes move an obstacle.

GENEVA, Feb 17. (Agencies): The United Nations called on Israel yesterday to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories.

The UN Human Rights Commission, in a resolution passed by 42 votes to zero, also said Israel's entire settlement policy for the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights was illegal.

The United States abstained in the vote but described settlements as "an obstacle to peace."

Palestinians have expressed alarm that new settlements will make it more difficult to recover the territories in the long term. They also say new settlements compete with Palestinians for scarce resources like ground water.

The commission resolution said "the settling of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention."

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which monitors implementation of the Geneva conventions, also said on Tuesday that the settlements were illegal.

US ambassador Morris Abram said his government disagreed with the way certain parts

of the resolution were phrased, but he added:

"We believe that settlements are an obstacle to peace. We believe that putting more settlers in these areas, particularly at this time, works against the cause of peace."

The commission passed other resolutions, similar to ones approved in past annual sessions, "strongly condemning" the continued occupation as well as a long list of what it called human rights violations from torture to deportations.

The Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation denounced Israel's unlawful establishment of Soviet immigrant settlements on occupied Arab territories, the official Tass news agency reported.

The foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen were in Baghdad to discuss the agenda for a Feb 24-26 summit of

the agency said the denunciation came during a meeting yesterday at the Foreign Ministry between Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov and a PLO delegation comprising its executive committee members Mohammed Abbas and Suliman Al Najah.

In Baghdad, Yasser Arafat discussed with four Arab foreign ministers the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, a PLO official said.

Azzam Al Ahmed, the PLO's bureau chief in Baghdad, said Arafat's talks covered attempts to call an emergency Arab summit on Jewish immigration.

The foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen were in Baghdad to discuss the agenda for a Feb 24-26 summit of

Arab Co-operation Council leaders in Amman.

Jewish groups and the US government reached an agreement yesterday on resettling 8,000 Soviet refugees, most of them Jews, in the United States.

The Council of Jewish Federations and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society will cover the costs of processing and transporting the refugees. They will also pay for their medical examinations, placement and resettlement for two years after they enter the country. The estimated cost is about \$30 million.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi yesterday said the Arab nation was currently facing renewed Israeli aggression not less dangerous than that of 1948.



**Anti-Rushdie march**

Pro-Iranian Muslim militants burn the poster of British author Salman Rushdie in West Beirut during a demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Israeli planes attack Amal militia post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 17. (AP): Israeli warplanes yesterday raided a southern Lebanon position of the mainstream Shiite Amal group, the military command said.

The raid came to punish Amal for what the army command termed "an increase in (anti-Israeli) attacks" and its assistance to infiltrations of Palestinian terrorists.

"Israel has no absolutely no interest in a confrontation with the Amal movement but if this process continues Israel would not be able to sit idly and will have to respond," said an Israeli army official.

In a short statement, the army command said that the target in the southern Lebanese village of Al Hajah served as an Amal co-ordination outpost and a departure point for joint attacks by Amal and the Palestinian groups.

Al Hajah is located about 10 kilometres (six miles) south of the Lebanese port city of Sidon.

"The target was hit, and all our planes returned safely," the army said without specifying the type of aircraft that took part in the attack.

In Beirut, Lebanon, an Amal source said the attack was carried out by two Israeli helicopters gunships at about 18.15 GMT (8.30 pm).

The source said that the gunships dropped four rockets into an empty Amal position and that no casualties were reported to the Amal headquarters in Beirut.

The source said the opposition was located near the Shite town of Zifta, about four kilometres (2.4 miles) southeast of Al Hajah.

It was Israel's fourth air raid into Lebanon this year. The last attack was on Jan 25 against a Palestinian base of the Abu Nidal faction east of Sidon.

The attack against Amal was highly unusual since that movement has been widely described by Israeli military observers as being at odds with Israel's fiercest enemies in south Lebanon — Palestinians and the Hezbollah.

However, Israeli army sources noted an increasing co-operation between senior Amal commanders and Palestinian organisations sending squads to carry out attacks in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon or in Israel.

## Egyptian consul's son arrested in drug case

HOUSTON, Feb 17. (AP): The son of the Egyptian consul was arrested along with seven others for allegedly trafficking in the synthetic drug MDMA, known as "ecstasy," authorities said yesterday.

Sherif Elgamrawy, 27, son of consul Bediia Elgamrawy, was arrested late Thursday after undercover officer bought about 1,000 tablets of the drug, said Sgt. Bill Kesseler of the Harris county organised crime narcotics task force.

In a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, the group said Tehran residents marched in the city.

Elgamrawy was held without bond yesterday at the county jail, said Kesseler. He was on bond on three other drug charges at the time of his arrest, authorities said.

One of those arrested was a 16-year-old girl, who was released to her parents' custody, Kesseler said. The other seven, including Elgamrawy, were charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

Kesseler said the arrests were part of an investigation of ecstasy suppliers in the Houston area.

The younger Elgamrawy was driving a car with diplomatic licence plates Kesseler said, adding he didn't know whether the son would have diplomatic immunity.

## 30 detained in Tehran football riot

NICOSIA, Feb 17. (Reuter): Iran said today police arrested 30 football hooligans in a riot outside a Tehran soccer stadium sparked by the postponement of a key match.

The Iranian news agency Farsa said soccer fans, angered because postponement of the match was not announced earlier, stoned cars and buildings outside Shiroozi stadium yesterday.

It said fans chanted slogans against the football federation but "prompt action by the police ... minimised the damage to public property." Some of the 30 "hooligans" arrested were still in detention, it said.

The main opposition group, the Mujahedeen Khalq, said the protest was political and security forces had killed several people when they fired on "a massive demonstration."

In a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, the group said Tehran residents marched in the city.

Iran quoted several Tehran newspapers as criticising radio and television stations for not broadcasting news of the cancellation in time. The papers said fans had travelled long distances.



**Say in Tunis**

A "humanitarian pilgrimage" led by Peggy Say, sister of the longest-held hostage in Lebanon, arrived in Tunis on Friday hoping to make a plea directly to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Say said she would ask Arafat if he would use his influence to get us out of this terrible impasse."

## UN launches emergency food aid for Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 17. (Agencies): The United Nations last week launched an emergency relief programme for 140,000 refugees in northern Somalia who may face mass starvation.

Several UN relief organisations pulled out of Somalia last October when the country's brutal civil war made it impossible to distribute goods in the arid northwest region.

In a statement issued yesterday, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the action was in response to an appeal by the Somalian government, which has warned donors that 300,000 refugees could starve if aid were not forthcoming.

The emergency relief action would include 2,000 tonnes of food and UN agencies, such as the High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, would resume humanitarian assistance "as soon as conditions allowed," the statement said.

Independently, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which still operates in the area, is also talking to the Somalian government on plans to expand its programmes, it added.

The Somalian government of Siad Barre, which has been accused by human rights groups of killing civilians indiscriminately in

# Syrians might dump radicals

## Boost to Mideast peace

CAIRO, Feb 17. (UPI): Damascus, fearing increased isolation, may drop support for radical Palestinian groups, in a move seen as a major boost to the ongoing US-sponsored Mideast peace process, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said yesterday.

Syria, traditionally Moscow's closest ally in the Middle East and considered by Arab analysts to be the arch-enemy of both Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, is also inching toward closer ties with the United States, the Foreign Ministry source said.

Syrian President Hafez Assad's sudden turn against the radical Palestinian groups he helped finance during his rule from Moscow has been welcomed by Israel, Egyptian newspaper said.

It also follows Egypt's recent return to the Arab fold, ending 11 years of isolation following its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the newspaper said. Egypt restored diplomatic ties with Syria on Dec 27, 1989, and Cairo's troubled relations with another radical Arab state, Libya, have improved considerably after two recent meetings between Muammar and Libyan leader Col Muammar Gadhafi.

"One of the basic elements in the dialogue between (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak and Assad, is getting Syria more involved in the current peace process," one Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told United Press International in a telephone interview. The source requested anonymity.

Egypt considers itself a key player in the ongoing Mideast peace efforts, which US Secretary of State James A. Baker hopes will lead to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Cairo, which is representing the PLO in talks with Washington and Israel — which Baker sees as a prelude to the dialogue — can take place in the near future, Cairo said the meeting was scheduled for Geneva last week, but was later postponed.

Egypt has received signals from Damascus that Syria may be prepared to drop support for Palestinian groups opposed to Arafat, the Foreign Ministry source said. "They would both profit from this."

Most prominent among Arafat's opponents, Arab analysts say, is Ahmed Jibril's Syria-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC). Jibril has attacked Arafat's current peace moves, including his denunciation of terrorism and recognition of the Jewish state in Geneva in Nov 1988, one month before the PLO began an unprecedented dialogue in Tunis with the United States.

Western investigators believe Jibril's organisation carried out the bombing of a Pan American Airways flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in Dec 1988, although the US government — an advocate of continued armed struggle against Israel — has denied this.

Jibril's PFLP-GC also claimed responsibility for a rifle and grenade attack on a bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt on Feb 4, 1990, which left at least nine Israeli dead and 16 other persons wounded. Jibril's claim led Egypt's government-supervised press to brand the Palestinian leader a "terrorist" for the first time.

Syria is also encouraging Abu Musab (another Palestinian radical leader opposed to Arafat and based in Syria, who helped Damascus oust Arafat from Lebanon in 1983), to close ranks with Arafat, the Foreign Ministry said. The source said Assad had asked Samir Ghoush, another Syrian-based Palestinian radical, "to mend fences with Arafat."

The source said Jordan's appeal to Syria on Thursday to revive the so-called eastern front against Israel with its ideological for Iraq, was part of Arab efforts to "bring Syria into the mainstream of the Arab fold, as the peace process develops."

Arafat's relations with Syria cooled after the core of the PLO under Arafat's leadership rejected Syrian domination of their forces in Lebanon in the mid-1980s. Syrian and PLO rebel forces, led by Abu Musab and Abu Saleh, trapped Arafat in the Lebanese port of Tripoli in Nov 1983, forcing Arafat to evacuate his fighters.

One Cairo-based Western diplomat said Syria also wanted to improve ties with the United States, damaged after Washington accused Damascus of sponsoring terrorism.

The diplomat pointed to a Kuwaiti report on Tuesday, which said Syrian army Chief of Staff Hekmat Al Shabani visited Washington shortly last week and held talks with senior US officials. The Kuwaiti newspaper reported described the visit as the highest contact since President George Bush came to office in January last year.

The envoy said one of Arafat's conditions for improved PLO-Syrian ties is that Damascus halt support for his radical opponents. "Once that is achieved, Arafat could improve ties with Damascus," he said.

## Bush will ignore PLO talks limits

### Gaza collaborator killed

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Feb 17. (Agencies): President George Bush signed a \$2.8-billion State Department authorisation bill yesterday but said he would circumvent provisions imposing limits on talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian leader.

Bush, who vetoed an earlier version of the bill, contended that his constitutional authority as president allowed him to disregard section of the bill requiring that Congress be kept informed of secret diplomatic missions, a move prompted by unannounced US dealings with Beijing.

Under the measure, funding for talks with the PLO would not be provided if any of the PLO representatives could be linked to terrorist acts against the United States.

"If this section were interpreted to prohibit negotiations with particular individuals under certain circumstances, it would impermissibly limit my constitutional authority to negotiate with foreign organisations," Bush said in a statement issued by the White House.

Addressing the part about diplomatic missions, Bush objected that "such blanket reporting requirements could be read to compel the disclosure of the contents of sensitive ongoing negotiations and may therefore compromise my constitutional authority."

He said he would "construe these provisions in light of my constitutional duties."

Meanwhile, in Gaza, Palestinians today hacked to death a young woman suspected of collaborating with Israel, a resident said. Her brother was killed as an alleged informant last year.



### I love to read

The American School of Kuwait (ASK) Salwa campus, is celebrating 'I Love to Read' month during February. All the classes are decorating their doors with book themes. The students are being encouraged to spend extra time reading each night. Good reading habits developed in childhood will benefit a person throughout his lifetime.

ASK also held a bookmark contest and each student had an opportunity to create an original bookmark. Special guests have visited the classrooms to give talks about the value of reading.

At the end of the month the boys and girls will participate in a gigantic 'book character parade'. Children will dress up as an animal or person from a book for the parade. The parents are invited to attend the event. Prizes will be awarded to pupils who have reached the goal of reading for fun every day in the month of February.

### Robbie 2002 at Kuwait International

#### What is a Robot doing in Kuwait?

DRAMATIC report has reached Kuwait. Rumour has it that Robbie 2002, a full metal, remote control, 1.2 metre tall robot is expected to arrive in Kuwait during the National Day celebrations. A sophisticated mechanical and unusual contraption, Robbie 2002 was born and raised in England. Like a chameleon which changes colour to adapt to any situation, Robbie 2002 has been in completely different guises in numerous exhibitions and television appearances. With over 200 TV appearances to his credit, Robbie 2002 is a star. He has acted as Rocky Wool (a bale of cotton), Henry X, 'Kenny the Carrier Bag', Wiz Bit and Max Trax. He is also 'Dusty Bin', the world famous robot of 3.2.1. that was one of the most successful TV quiz shows in England regularly having over 17 million viewers worldwide. Robbie has appeared in many forms but for Kuwait, his spokesman says, "... Robbie will be dressed to kill!"

He is currently taking tap dancing lessons at the London Royal Ballet School which will be just one of the many talents. His hotel bookings are not yet confirmed but Robbie has shown a marked preference for the Kuwait International Hotel.

**Robbie 2002 undergoes treatment**  
Whenever Robbie 2002, the high-tech metal robot has travelled it was always by sea. He was dismantled and bundled into the cargo hold. This way his electrical 'nerves' were numb and he never got sea sick. But Robbie has a mind of his own. This time he insists on coming in style as he comes for an important occasion. He has decided to travel by air and as a 'passenger'. His friends from Kuwait Airways have generously offered to fly him over several

thousand miles so that he is here on time for the 23rd, 24th and 25th February.

However, the question is ... can his nerves take it? Latest reports from London say that Robbie is under intensive care at a Harley Street clinic. The situation is not alarming but woring. His blood pressure is above normal and so is his heartbeat. Doctors say, "... it's all because of the excitement of travelling and performing for the National Day celebrations".

The team at the Kuwait International Hotel is making preparations to welcome this very important guest. Robbie has not indicated where he will stay. The Executive Floor or the Engineering Department. However, the hotel is ready for any situation that may arise out of having a robot as a guest. The only hinge to his travel plan now seems to be his travel documents. Authorities in London have never issued a passport to robot but with Robbie's mind ticking he is sure to find a way.

#### ... And what does Robbie 2002 eat?

With Robbie's passport problem solved never before has the kitchen brigade at the Kuwait International Hotel ever been in such a quandry. What does Robbie 2002 eat? Chef Dorra has received special instructions from the Hi-Tech Research Institute of Great Britain on Robbie's diet. Once a day he eats springs, nuts and bolts topped with Kuwait Danish Dairy cream and a sprinkling of Kuwait International's strawberry sauce. Twice a day he drinks refined oil to smoothen his joints. Chef Dorra and chief engineer, Joe Carmouch are personally supervising his meal preparation so that he stays in fine health and high spirits for his audience at the Kuwait International.

### NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City  
Al Hajri Pharmacy, Al Hilali Street  
Al Baggami Pharmacy, Ahmed Al Jaber Street Hawalli and Al Negra Al Hana Pharmacy, Beirut

Street  
Al Salimiya and Al Rumeithiya  
Al Maidan Pharmacy, Bagh-dad Street

Street  
Old Khaitan  
Al Shraan Pharmacy, Block 2  
Al Zahra  
Al Zahra Pharmacy, New Souk

### There is a variety



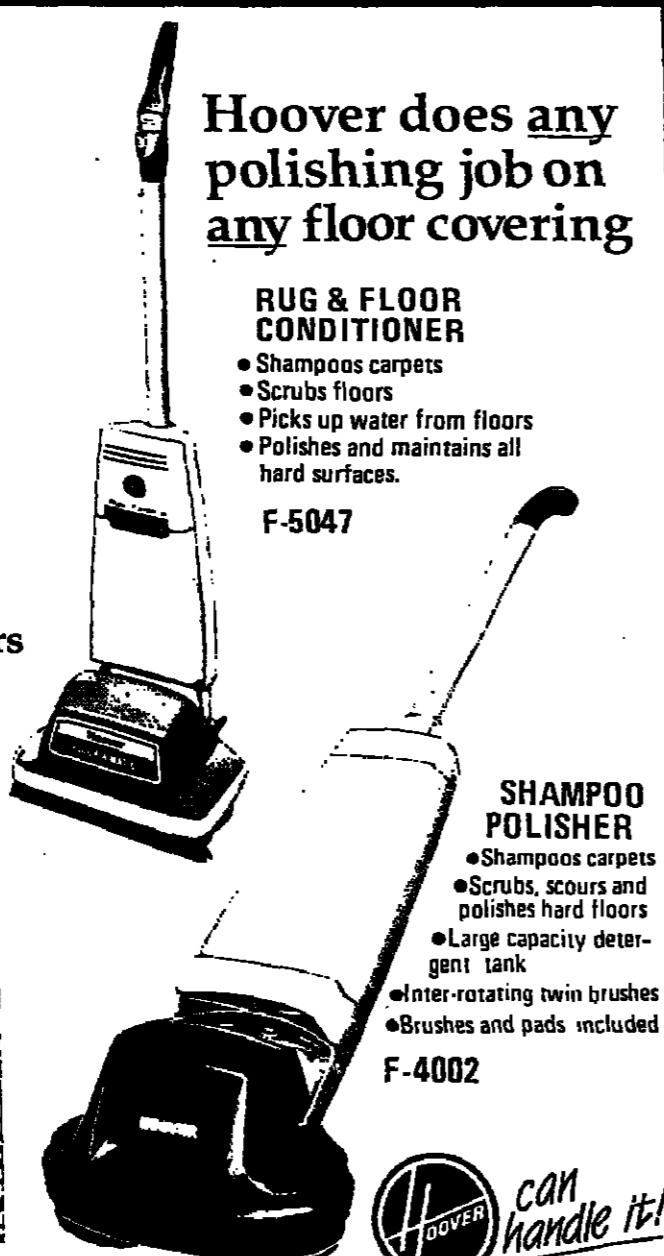
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### TELEVISION PROGRAMME

#### KTV 1

##### MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Khair news  
9.50 Cartoon Serial  
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 7)

1.4 That's Incredible: Foreign Variety Programme  
12.25 News Summary  
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

##### EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon Serial  
5.15 Cartoons

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial (part 9)

7.00 Varieties  
7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqoub Al Youssi

7.45 Diwaniyat Shuaa Al Nabat: local programme  
8.30 Good Evening and local news

9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Ahlam Sagheera: local serial (part 9)

10.45 Al Iktiyyar Al Hor: Arabic late night feature, starring Huda Sultan, Husain Al Sharbeeni, Majda Zaki and May Abdul Ghani

12.00 News Summary

12.05 The World Today via Satellite  
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

#### KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy

6.10 Quran  
6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children  
6.30 The Beachcombers: "Poster Boy". As if constable John doesn't have enough to worry about... He is stuck with corporal Dan Fellows looking over his shoulder... Dan seems to be having it all his own way with Gerri Dayton, the photographer...

7.00 The Celts "The Open Ended Curve." Interviews held and a display of antiques from the Celtic heritage showing the primitive life of the Celtic tribes...

8.00 News in English  
8.30 Midnight Caller "Blues For Mr. Charlie". A special programme on the dangers of holding arms inadvertently...

7.15 A case where an innocent man is murdered...

9.30 Coach "Define Romance" "Hyden feels jealous when his girl-friend "Christine" goes to the opera with another man..."

10.00 Q.E.D. "The Write Stuff" A look at writings analysis science as a new branch of psychology... Interviews held with experts in analysing writing from where they can tell about the personality of the writer...

10.30 Bestseller "The Shirale" pt. 2 "Mac" returns with his daughter "Paster" to stay with his eldest daughter "Lily"..."Paster" falls sick and Mac leaves town searching for a new job...

12.00 News in Brief  
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



### Condolences for Thoppil Ravi

tural & political organisations in Kuwait participated in the meeting held at Regal Hotel (Behind GPO).

Most of the representatives who participated found that, Ravi never judged things by political bias and by his demise socio-political arena of Kerala has a big gap which cannot be filled by normal politicians. They also expressed anxiety in such loss of sincere leaders from Congress party. "We have to exemplify him in our political career", they added.

Varghese Mathew presided over the function. Amerjean, Thankappan (KALA) Edava Nasir, P.M. Sudhakaran and K.T. Beerankoya expressed con-

cerns representing various organisations in Kuwait. Joseph Thankachan welcomed the audience and Krishnan Kadambu extended vote of thanks.

The picture shows the last public function attended by Thoppil Ravi. This was a meeting organised by 'Veedhanam Readers Forum' at Dubai on the Republic Day of India this year. Ravi is delivering the speech. The others are Mohan Oas (president — Dubai Unit), Bhavani Singh (UAE Central Committee president) and Sabash Chandra Bose (Sharjah Unit President).

After this visit, Ravi returned home and passed away on 8th February, '90 from a heart attack.



### Farewell dinner

Shireen and Iqbal H. Zaidi hosted a farewell dinner at their residence to say good-bye to Said Akbar Afzli, First Secretary, Pakistan Embassy, on his transfer to Mozambique. Diplomats from Canada, Hungary, Japan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Syria and Turkey attended the dinner.

### WHAT'S ON

#### ARTS

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah  
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoine who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

**Seminar**  
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodical Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

**Hobby Centre**  
FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

**SOCIAL**  
**Flute recital**  
PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040.

**Kuwait Welsh Society**  
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner Thursday 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

#### Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

#### ACOI seven-a-side

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shahid Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khaldiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

#### Oil and Gas Catalogue Show

THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed.

Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact, Abdulla Mealli, Tel: 2424151 ext 267, Fax: 2407368.

#### Children's variety show

RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

#### Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

#### Blis 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

#### Handicrafts exhibition

UNDER the auspices of the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salim Al Sabah, an exhibition of handicrafts for young Kuwaiti boys and girls will be held on February 24 until February 28 at the Kuwait Regency Palace. For more information contact Salwa Al Harbi on 4835398.

#### Ladies International League

LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. Newcomers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

#### Tivim Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers 2441860 Casmiro.

### French Film Festival

#### WHEN VERSAILLES

TALKS: Director Sacha Guitry weaves his story around the period of Louis XIV, in three main sequences. First, at one table Robespierre, Louis XIV, La Fayette, and Maria Antoinette meet to discuss reforms to absorb public rage in 1789.

Second, were the march of women to Versailles is depicted.

Three, the film witness the auctioning of the properties of the detaching dispouts.

It is a 1953 production and stars Jeanne Fuster-Gir and Jean Pierre Aumont. The film will be screened at the Chamber of Commerce at 7.30, today.

### Exhibition of Graphic Art

Under the patronage of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Angel Manitev, the Boushari Gallery will present an exhibition of Graphic Art by Stoyan Stoyanov starting Sunday, Feb 18, 1990 at 6.00pm. The Gallery will be open (on the following days) from 9.00am to 12.30 noon and 4.00 pm to 8.30 pm.



## UN owed \$1.5 billion in overdue payments

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 17, (AP): The United Nations, facing mounting fiscal problems as it enhances its peacemaking role in the world, is owed \$1.59 billion in payments from 81 members, a UN report says.

The report released Friday says that of the total amount due to the 159-member body, roughly \$1.09 billion is for the UN's regular budget and about \$500 million is for peacekeeping missions.

The regular budget is used to pay for operations of UN headquarters in New York, Vienna and Geneva, and for operations in smaller offices in more than 70 countries.

A two-year regular budget of \$1.98 billion has been approved for 1990-91, with about \$935 million of that for this year's operations.

Member contributions for 1990 became overdue on Feb 1.

UN spokesman Matthew Nerzig said the world body faces as ominous financial situation.

"The secretary-general has repeatedly stated that the situation remains ominous. And despite these statements I can't say that the situation has improved," Nerzig said.

"In light of all that the organization is being asked to do at the moment, I think it is high time that the UN be able to leave its financial worries behind," he said.

In recent years the UN has heightened its involvement in mediating regional conflicts, clearing the way for an end to the Iran-Iraq war and overseeing the transition to independence in Namibia.

The five permanent members of the Security Council also have recommended a major UN role in efforts for peace in Cambodia.

The financial report showed that as of Feb 1, the United States owed \$772 million — \$173.2 million of that for peacekeeping operations and \$598.8 million for the regular budget.

Of the money the United States owes the regular budget, \$233.7 million is for the 1990 budget and \$365.1 million is owed for past-due contributions from previous years.

## Malaysia to host summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Feb 17, (AP): In June Malaysia will host the first summit meeting of the new "Group of 15," formed to promote co-operation among developing nations, Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said today.

The group was assembled in Belgrade in September as a forum for regular consultation on issues facing developing countries, and to promote co-operation with developed nations, Abu Hassan said.

Its official name is the summit level group for South-South consultation and co-operation.

Abu Hassan said the government's decision to offer Kuala Lumpur as the summit site was a continuation of Malaysia's efforts to sustain and nurture effective South-South ties.

Group of 15 members are Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

### EXCHANGE RATES

	17.20	17.30
Indian rupee	17.20	17.30
Sri Lankan rupee	7.340	7.340
Pakistani rupee	1.340	1.340
Swiss franc	29.075	29.075
US dollar	49.525	49.525
Pound sterling	0.7910	0.7910
UAE dirham	1.7395	1.7395
Deutsche mark	0.02323	0.02323
Japanese yen	55	55

## Dollar dips as traders dismiss trade number, eye Japan vote

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (UPI): The dollar mostly slid in New York trading yesterday despite a significantly reduced US trade deficit, as players took profits and fled to safe European units until after Japan's weekend elections.

The US trade deficit's fall to \$7.2 billion in December from \$10.5 billion in November — much greater than expected — should have helped the dollar. But players saw an import falloff as pointing to economic slowing.

The trade data was flanked by Federal Reserve Board numbers showing US industrial production off 1.2 per cent from December to January, and industrial capacity utilisation down to 81.9 per cent from 83.1 per cent.

Such evidence of economic feebleness increased the chance the Fed might lower interest rates and further undermine the

than most people expected," said chief dealer John McCarthy of the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, but participants were put off by the gloomy industrial statistics.

Later in the New York session the dollar was trading at 1.6763 German marks, off sharply from 1.6927 marks Thursday. But the dollar gained on the Japanese currency to trade at 144.75 yen against 144.74.

Currency analyst Lisa Fimstrom of Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. offered another explanation. "The trade number gave the currency markets an opportunity to get long the mark," she said, meaning traders moved to adjust portfolios to net Deutsche mark rather than net dollar positions.

The market is paying less attention to trade figures, she said, and this "underlines the degree to which the dollar is no longer

the dominant trade currency," she said.

She predicted a "sigh-of-relief rally in the yen" after Sunday's elections in Japan to renew the lower house of the Diet, or parliament. The governing Liberal Democratic Party is expected to retain its majority or at least enough seats to lead a strong coalition government.

But if the yen doesn't rally on the election results, Fimstrom said, the Bank of Japan might be obliged to raise its discount rate to reinforce the currency and keep rates competitive with those in West Germany. This would probably strengthen the yen against the dollar.

In New York the British pound climbed to \$1.6957 from \$1.6860.

Other dollar rates: 1.4910 Swiss francs, off from 1.5040; 5.6980 French francs, down from 5.7550; and 1.244 Italian lire, down from 1.256.

In Europe the dollar closed mostly

marks, up from 1.6790 Thursday, and also rose in Zurich to 1.4990 Swiss francs from 1.4945.

In Paris, Brussels and Milan it rose to 5.7535 French francs against 5.7045, 35.44 Belgian francs from 35.13 and 1.256 Italian lire from 1.246.

In London trading the pound inched up to \$1.6960 from \$1.6935.

Republic National Bank in New York closed cash gold at \$417.75 an ounce, up from \$412.75. The New York Commodity Exchange settled gold at \$417.10 an ounce, up from \$412.40. Zurich gold rose to \$417.50 and ounce from \$417, while London gold rose to \$417.75 an ounce from \$415.75.

Republic closed cash silver at \$5.34 an ounce, up from \$5.33. Comex spot silver advanced to \$5.328 an ounce from \$5.317. Zurich silver closed higher at \$5.40 an

### Wall Street watch

# Surprise jump in interest rates

### What recession? stock prices

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (AP): If the economy is headed for a period of pain and retrenchment, some stubborn optimists in the stock market evidently haven't gotten the word.

Over the first seven weeks of 1990, the financial news has been almost unrelentlessly negative — recession forecasts, a sudden rise

in interest rates, and the dramatic failure of a prominent Wall Street firm.

The stock market joined in the gloomy chorus last month with a sell-off that chilled followers of the "January barometer," which is supposed to signal the likely course of stock prices over the rest of the year.

But with all those excuses to lose its nerve, the market has lately rebounded instead, and now stands only about 6 per cent below the record high it reached as the New Year began.

The latest demonstration of the market's resiliency came this past week, when barely a ripple of selling followed news of the

collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the firm that reigned as "junk-bond" king through most of the 1980s.

That was hardly the only instance. Analysts also note that the market has been faced with a barrage of increasingly downbeat appraisals of the business outlook.

For example, Maury Harris, economist at PaineWebber Inc., this month said he believed the odds of a recession had increased to about two in five, or 40 per cent, from one in three previously.

At about the same time, the economists S. Jay Levy and David Levy in Chappaqua, New

York, increased their recession-probability rating from 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

Among other factors, both cited the surprise jump in interest rates, which has added to an already worrisome list of credit problems facing business planners and consumers.

Said the Levys: "The economy

has financial vulnerabilities that are now just beginning to impact non-financial economic activity.

"Overindebtedness has reduced, or ended, business at number of retail firms. Construction companies are building fewer houses because they can't obtain financing.

'Americans must seize the unusual opportunity'

## Call to invest in E. Europe

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (UPI): Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger told a group of business leaders today

Americans must seize the "unusual opportunity" to invest in Eastern Europe to adapt to the changing environment.

An announcement said access to Western technology will be enhanced for technology for legitimate civil purposes for countries in Eastern Europe that have embarked on democratic reforms and agree to safeguard our technology.

Cocom, which includes all members of Nato plus Japan, met in Paris this week to consider the changes.

In his speech Friday to the US Chamber of Commerce's International Forum, Eagleburger urged American businessmen to move into Eastern Europe quickly before other countries seize the opportunity.

It is clear that a new Europe will demand new thinking and a new vision on our part. We have lived for the past 45 years with a divided Europe and are still inclined to think of Eastern Europe as a place apart. But those days are gone — or are going fast," he said.

But he warned Eastern Europe may be a difficult place to do business.

"Laws and policies will be changing. New ideas will be clashing with old habits. Credit, banking, communications and other facilities for doing business will be well below Western standards, at least at the beginning," he said.

## Drexel begins layoffs

NEW YORK, Feb 17, (UPI): Pink slips outnumber blue chips yesterday at Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc., the largest investment house ever to seek federal bankruptcy protection, which began laying off several thousand employees.

Other brokerages picked over the remains of Drexel, until recently one of the most powerful houses on Wall Street. Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. was considering acquiring some of Drexel's 28,000 brokerage accounts, a Shearson spokesman said.

"Several thousands" of Drexel's 5,300 employees were told Friday they were being laid off, said Drexel spokesman Steve Andret.

"It will cease to be an operating company," he said of Drexel, which filed for bankruptcy protection Tuesday. Once a formidable pioneer in the use of junk bonds to keep the takeovers of the 1980s, Drexel said it sought protection from creditors because of a downturn in the market for the

high-risk, high-yield bonds.

The fallout from Drexel's demise was expected to be reflected in the earnings of 25 large thrifts, which have heavy investments in junk bonds.

At Drexel's headquarters in Lower Manhattan, employees left Friday carrying boxes of personal belongings that were thoroughly searched by a beefed-up security staff.

While one employee described the scene as depressing and another left cursing former US Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, who spearheaded the investigation that led to insider trading charges against Drexel, others managed to keep their sense of humor.

Some wore buttons that read, "Junk bonds keep America fit." Another standing on the sidewalk shouted, "We're trying to sell the equity division. Anybody want to buy it?"

Even Drexel tried to put on a cheerful face.

### Outstanding students to get awards

## Asca announces result

ARAB Society of Certified Accountants (Asca) has announced the results of the first level of Asca qualification examination for the title of "Arab Certified Accountant" which was held in six examination centres located in five Arab countries namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on November 28, 1989.

The examinations supervisory board held its meetings in London on February 15, 1990 in the presence of all its members namely Robert May, former president of International Federation of Certified Accountants (Ifac), Dr Khalil Kundi, Antoine Matar, Fouad Alaeedini of Asca board, Prof. John Small, former chairman of the education committee of Ifac, and John Kirkpatrick, former chairman of International Accounting Standards Committee (Iasc).

The examinations supervisory board announced that 26 per cent of the students passed four subjects and 13 per cent of the students passed three subjects.

Jamal Sidiqi of Kuwait came in first place. Mohammad Ahmad Yaghi second and Mohammad Jommaah Abu-Rayyan third.

Names passing only four subjects

Ali Salem Dwairi, Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Slam Banat, Izzat Moayyad El Masri, Tawfiq Hassan Al Maskati, Ali Mohammed Hussein Mohamad, Osman Saleh Mohamed Osman, Khalil Gummia El Masry, Hasan Saleh Said Bajafar, Rajeh Mahmud Sulaiman Al Sayed, Mazen Abdul Razak Al Natshah, Saleh Mohammad Al Ghtheem, Kamal Subhi Baddar, Nidal Nazzmi Al Badawi, Ahmed Mahmoud Maher El Rimaly, Mahmoud Mustafa Mousa, Anis Salem Al Mazyah, Awni Ahmad Al Attafah, Badr Al Din Mohamed Omar, Adeb Mabdul All, Ibrahim Khalil Faroun, Adel Khamis Hussein Salou.

Names passing all the subjects

Jamal Sudqi Yasin, Ismail Mohammad Ahmad Ahmad Dabbas.

## IMF loan to Tanzania

WASHINGTON, Feb 17, (UPI): The International Monetary Fund yesterday announced a \$28.3 million loan to support Tanzania's economic reform programme.

The loan will help the third annual part of a three-year Tanzanian economic programme under the IMF's structural adjustment facility. Since its approval in October 1987, the East African country has drawn a total of \$70.8 million in support of the first and second annual parts of the programme.

The third part of the SAF programme aims to maintain an annual rate of economic growth of 4 per cent to 5 per cent, reduce the inflation rate from 24 per cent to less than 10 per cent, and improving Tanzania's external position.

Following a period of economic decline in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Tanzania's government introduced its economic recovery programme in mid-1986 to accelerate activity, reduce inflation and improve the efficiency of agriculture, industry and transportation.

The fund said that in a major shift in policy orientation, the government sought to improve resource allocation and to provide the economy with appropriate price signals through changes in the exchange rate and producer prices, combined with fewer price controls and reduce restrictions on productive activities.

She predicted a "sigh-of-relief rally in the yen" after Sunday's elections in Japan to renew the lower house of the Diet, or parliament. The governing Liberal Democratic Party is expected to retain its majority or at least enough seats to lead a strong coalition government.

In Paris, Brussels and Milan it rose to 5.7535 French francs against 5.7045, 35.44 Belgian francs from 35.13 and 1.256 Italian lire from 1.246.

In London trading the pound inched up to \$1.6960 from \$1.6935.

Republic National Bank in New York closed cash gold at \$417.75 an ounce, up from \$412.75. The New York Commodity Exchange settled gold at \$417.10 an ounce, up from \$412.40. Zurich gold rose to \$417.50 and ounce from \$417, while London gold rose to \$417.75 an ounce from \$415.75.

Other dollar rates: 1.4910 Swiss francs, off from 1.5040; 5.6980 French francs, down from 5.7550; and 1.244 Italian lire, down from 1.256.

In New York the British pound climbed to \$1.6957 from \$1.6860.

Other rates: 1.5040 Swiss francs, down from 1.5040; 5.6980 French francs, down from 5.7550; and 1.244 Italian lire, down from 1.256.

In London trading the pound inched up to \$1.6960 from \$1.6935.

Republic National Bank in New York closed cash silver at \$5.34 an ounce, up from \$5.33. Comex spot silver advanced to \$5.328 an ounce from \$5.3

# Beware!... this teenage girl is deadly

MOTHER: Karen Moore is always worried when her two young children are out by themselves. For if anybody molests them, their attacker could end up by being seriously injured.

For Karen's whole family — 32-year-old Tony, Sandra, aged 13, and Steven, eight — are all experts at the 2,000-year-old martial art of Thai boxing. They are all as deadly with their feet as with their fists.

In fact, father Tony is the world champion and has been offered a part in a film to be made by the tycoons who rocketed the late Kung-Fu ace Bruce Lee to fame.

But every member of Tony's family packs a staggering punch. And this came in useful more than once for teenager Sandra, already a Thai boxing teacher and women's champion for North-West England.

She told me: "Once I was walking home with a few friends when we were attacked by three big lads, all much older than us. My friends ran off. But I threw one lad over a hedge, kicked one in the stomach — and the other one ran away."

"Another time, I was in the park on my own when I saw an old man being picked on by some lads. They were pushing him about and kicking his dog. I went over and told them to leave him alone. They turned round and one of them punched me. He was moving to punch me again but I kicked him in the stomach. They just stood there and looked pretty amazed, and the old man was able to walk away."

"And slightly-built fair-haired Karen could see a playground safety off at the speed of one of his highly-trained kicks. When Tony recently took his fighting bags on a trip to Thailand, boxing experts there wanted the boy to stay on so they could turn him into a champion."

But Karen thought Steven should stay a little longer at his home in Manchester before climbing into the world arena. Meanwhile, he trains at the local Thai boxing club, of which 32-year-old Karen is secretary. And she



Tony lying on broken glass

film company spotted him trumphant at the world championships in Hong Kong. They have promised that, if he impresses moviegoers in the film, he will be offered a major role in their next production.

Dark-haired Tony said: "I was really surprised by the film men's offer — especially as it was the company which first made martial arts popular with the film *Enter the Dragon*. I've had no acting experience, but they still wanted to take me on."

But Tony hasn't found it easy to punch and kick his way to stardom. Karen said: "He's incredibly dedicated, always training and working hard at the sport. I'm proud of him — and the children, too. Although Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, you have to listen to the teacher carefully. There can't be any mess around. It teaches kids very simply what is right and what is wrong."

And Tony, lithe and muscular, added: "My sport often sorts out the toughies who get drunk on a Saturday night and think they can fight. When they come to the sports centre and club, you see that they really can't punch properly. And most of them are too scared to go into that ring with a one-to-one fight, where they have to keep to a set of rules."

Tony had his chance to become a movie star when talent scouts from the Golden Harvest

He told me: "They use the power of mind over matter to walk through fire, and to strike over and lie on broken glass. It's incredible to watch."

Then Tony showed me one of the skills he had learnt from a Thai boxing master. He broke up some bottles and spread the jagged pieces on the floor. Tony then lay on the glass.

Fighters will wear a mokong, a sacred band, which has monks' prayers inside.

The traditions stem from the days when Thai boxers would fight to the death. This is now against the law, but Tony believes it still goes on in remote areas.

He explained: "But the ritual is very important, as it helps to prepare you mentally for the fight."

When he takes his family to Thailand, Sharon is not allowed to train in some centres because she is a girl. But little Steven is always welcome because of his male talent.

"The best thing about Thai boxing is that you never stop learning. There is always some new technique or idea to find out. And not a day goes by for me without training or teaching."

"Although Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, I've never seen anyone seriously injured. You are on the attack all the time. But

in football, for example, you can be taken unawares and seriously hurt."

"It is amazing to see Thai people change as they go into the ring to box. When they go in, they become aggressive and have that killer instinct. But as soon as the fight is over, they're smiling and friendly."

"As for me, I'm aggressive in the ring — but placid outside it."

Tony went on: "I'm constantly amazed by the power someone can generate from the body — and which is channelled by Thai boxing. At its best, it's a form of meditation. It's superb to watch people testing each other's skill in this way."

Tony began to take the sport really seriously when he gave up his job as building labourer 5-1/2 years ago to open a Fighters and Fitness Centre, just a few streets away from his terrace home. He was able, with the help of grants, to convert a ramshackle, dilapidated building into a training centre.

Here Tony teaches the fine points of the martial art. For example, before a fight begins, a Thai boxer has to perform a ceremonial dance.

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"Although Thai boxing is a dangerous sport, I've never seen anyone seriously injured. You are on the attack all the time. But



Little Sandra practicing her trade

## Country Music

# In a musical no-man's land

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (UPI): Curtis Wright finds himself in a musical no-man's land.

The Pennsylvania native has had a top 30 single and some momentum. But Airborne Records is apparently so short of money it can't release his next single or his already prepared album.

Naturally, the country singer-songwriter is a frustrated man.

"I think they (Airborne officials in Nashville) are telling me as much as they know. I realize it is my business but I realize that sometimes you have to keep things to yourself until you get them figured out," Wright said.

"I am concerned that the album hasn't been put out. All I can do is hope that they get whatever problems they have worked out. Ourselves I'm going to have to go somewhere else. I've got to."

Wright, who co-wrote *A Woman in Love* which was a big hit for Ronnie Milsap, said he hopes the success of his single, "She's got a man on her mind," will attract a major label to him.

"I'm certainly interested in talking with a major label to come up with some kind of plan. If somebody will take a chance, I think I'll prove I'm well worth it. We've got the songs cut and it's just a matter if Airborne is going to be able to move them on or not."

"I've got a little momentum and I'd hate to lose it. I think I would be an attractive package. I don't understand why it hasn't happened. I can't let it kill me."

Wright said when he signed with Airborne he "assumed" they had the money to put out the product.

"I guess it bothered me that they signed somebody and created a product knowing that you couldn't go any further with it. It's beyond me. I didn't know that at the time."

"If Airborne could get everything straightened out and gets back in the swing, I would not mind staying here a bit. I have control. I like the people I'm working with. I feel for them. They deserve to have a shot. If someone came in here and bought the company, I wouldn't be interested in staying."

"I am a man without a company, dead in the water. I've got some songs about real life out there that people will say, 'yeah, I feel like that.'"

Wright began turning on to music at the age of nine when his dad gave him a Sears Silvertone guitar which he still owns. His father never encouraged or discouraged him from going into music.

He entered an entertainment contest when he was 15 or 16 and came in second to a nine-year-old girl who sang "Almost Persuaded."

"It humbled me a little bit," laughed Wright. "I thought I had a chance at walking away with it. I guess it showed me that even though you might be the most talented, there might be something more involved than talent."

Wright said he was influenced by Buck Owens, Glen Campbell, the Eagles and other West Coast groups more than he was by Elvis Presley or the Beatles.

After graduating from high school, he got a job at a fiberglass plant in his hometown where his father worked and stayed there for three years.

Finally he told his dad he couldn't do it any more.

"I told him I didn't want to get locked into that syndrome where you find a girl, get married, buy a house, a boat and a car and that's the rest of your life. I told him that I had found a guy who would pay me \$150 to play three nights a week. I said I was going to have it."

"He said, 'son, I don't blame you. You're young enough where you can experiment. There is nothing for a young man in our town.'

Wright hit the road and got jobs with several bands including the super Grit Cowboy Band.

However, by 1987 Wright decided if he was ever going to make it in country music, he had to try it out in Nashville.

## Housing the rich

# Real estate costs soar as high as the stars

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Thanks in part to the likes of Frank Sinatra and Zsa Zsa Gabor, who seem to sell their houses when the closest get filled, real estate here soars as high as the stars.

The average habitable house north of Santa Monica boulevard in Beverly Hills, for example, is about \$4 million.

Tear-down houses go for \$1.5 million — the older, smaller houses that are bulldozed for far grander things on lots that are often only 70 feet by 180 feet (21 by 55m).

Of 200 houses built in Beverly Hills in the past two years, all but five replaced a tear-down.

If the low end of available houses is \$7 million in this enclave of the rich and infamous, the high end is out of sight. Some homes in Bel Air and Holmby Hills go for as much as \$25 million. Then there is producer Aaron Spelling's \$4,000 square-foot (48,600 sq.m.) mansion, still under construction, which has a price tag estimated at about \$30 million.

The man doing the estimating is realtor Mike Silverman, who is as much a celebrity around town as most actors.

Silverman has been buying and selling homes to the big- and small-screen elite for more than 30 years.

Several years ago he sold Frank Sinatra a house atop a peak in the Santa Monica mountains overlooking Beverly Hills.

Sinatra grew tired of it, so Silverman sold it — sight-unseen — to a multimillionaire and his new bride.

After that marriage broke up, Silverman sold it back to Sinatra who kept it several years before selling it again.

then it's foreigners who want to live in a star's ex-home.

"Sometimes celebrities buy other celebrities' homes," Silverman said. "That was the case with the Bel Air mansion that is owned now by Marvin Davis. I originally sold it to Dino de Laurentiis. Kenny Rogers bought it for \$14 million and then sold it to Marvin Davis for over \$20 million."

Silverman also makes his home in Beverly Hills, along with a weekend getaway on the beach at Malibu, surrounded by the likes of Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland, Larry Hagman, Burgess Meredith, Dennis Weaver and others.

Malibu, he says, is in a price-tag class by itself. A lot with 5-foot (1.5m.) frontage goes for more than \$1 million if it's on the sand, even if the house is a shack.

"Pia Zadora has a house at the beach on a 30-foot (10m.) lot and she has it up for sale at \$4.5 million," Silverman said.

"Real estate keeps going up and up. I sold (producer) Bob Evans his house for \$300,000 off Coldwater Canyon many years ago. He recently turned down the opportunity to sell it for \$6 million."

"Tony Curtis paid \$300,000 for an estate off Sunset Boulevard and I sold it for \$4.2 million. It changed hands a couple of more times and then we sold it for \$4.2 million. Now it's worth between \$10-12 million."

According to Silverman, some 15 per cent of current real estate sales in these prestigious neighbourhoods is to foreign buyers, many of them from the Middle East and an increasing number from Japan.



Frank Sinatra



Cher

## Rickshaws dumped at sea

# Jakarta drivers lose jobs — fish find home

JAKARTA, (Reuter): Jakarta's three-wheeled cycle rickshaws, or becaks, are being dumped into the sea, providing a home for fish leaving tons of thousands of drivers screaming for jobs.

The government says becaks are inhuman and pledged to wipe them out by April, but its heavy-handed removal of drivers' livelihood has come under fire from all sides and has even led to violence.

Straining to pedal a rusty rickshaw down with a middle-aged housewife, her three children and mountains of shopping in searing tropical heat is a tough way to earn a living.

"It's inhuman... a sort of exploitation of man by man," said Jakarta Governor Wiryo Atmodarminto.

Becak drivers, who earn 5,000 rupiah (2.80

dollars) a day, would rather pedal than do nothing. They say they are being sacrificed to the development of the Indonesian capital.

Becaks, pronounced becak, were introduced in the 1940s when the occupying Japanese army ran out of horses.

Now, manoeuvred through the narrow lanes of Jakarta's crowded residential areas, they are considered incompatible with a modern city.

### Fame

The government says motorised three-wheelers and minibuses will replace becaks. But residents say their fumes will make Jakarta's polluted air even grimmer and their higher price will force many people to walk.

Abolishing becaks was first proposed in 1972, slicing the 125,000 rickshaws to

about 10,000 before the campaign lost steam. In the 1980s, number swelled to nearly 100,000.

The current crackdown began in earnest December. Day and night, a city task force nets becaks in Jakarta's sidestreets, wresting them from their owners and sending them to be dumped.

Fights between task-force officers and drivers are rife. Stone-throwing and attacks by both sides have left at least two people dead.

But becak dumping has a bright side. When officials found drivers raiding dumps and rebuilding the rickshaws, they took to throwing them into Jakarta Bay.

Fishermen found certain fish and muscles have rapidly multiplied under artificial reefs of mossy becak corpses.

The man doing the estimating is realtor Mike Silverman, who is as much a celebrity around town as most actors.

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## SNIPPERS

## Passerby killer nabbed

A BAKERY owner who mauled a passerby last month was arrested by police at his home in Navotas yesterday morning, hours after the victim died.

Ernesto Ramirez, 31, of Lot 2, Carville Homes Subdivision, Tanza, gave up peacefully to Lt. Col. Edgardo Avendano.

Sgt. Rogelio Castillo said Ramirez went into hiding after beating up Noel Ulip, 16, of 27 Makinis St., Tanza, on Dec. 23.

Ulip died on internal hemorrhage at the Ospital ng Maynila.

The victim's father, Alfredo, and a witness said Ulip was walking home along Makinis St. when Ramirez rushed him and beat him up for no clear reason.

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## Naked &amp; dead

A MAN was found naked and dead in a hotel room in Pasay City.

The hotel registry book showed that the man registered as Carlos Ferrer but Cpl. Salvador Aguas, Cpl. Jaime de la Cruz and Pfc. Pio Nepomuceno theorized that the man had used a fictitious name.

Cashier Maria Luzviminda Timkang, 27, of Dapitan Lodge at 47 Dapitan St., Pasay City, said the man checked in with a girl who looked "young and dirty."

Roomboys Florencio Timkang and Casiano Florida knocked at the door of the room but no one answered.

The opened it with a duplicate key and found the man dead. The girl was gone.

The body was brought to the NBI morgue for autopsy.

## Businesswoman slashed to death

THREE men slashed to death a businesswoman in Quezon City who turned down their request for a loan.

Honorina Ballerda, 55, of 30 Masaya St., Barangay Gulod, Novaliches was found dead in her room. She died from a slash wound in the neck.

Homicide investigator Pfc. Mariano Rivera Jr. said that the incident happened at the victim's house.

Ballerda's housemaid, Adela Argotes, 55, told police that one of the men entered the house and pretended to pawn a ring. Later the two other men forced open the door and the three suspects grabbed Ballerda.

The three men pushed Ballerda to her room where she was hogtied and slashed in the neck. Argotes told investigators.

The suspects before leaving ransacked the victim's house and fled with still an undetermined amount of money and jewelry.

Witnesses told police that on Friday the three men tried to secure a loan from Ballerda but they were turned down.

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## 36 barangays freed from rebel control

THE military has established government presence in at least 36 barangays formerly controlled by communist rebels in Cotabato province in 1989.

Brig. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano, 603rd Army Brigade commander, said the defenestrated barangays are fronts 53 and 72 of the rebels' operational and expansion areas.

Soriano said defenestrated means that the barangays are rid of CPP/NPA political and military structures.

"The insurgents have suffered a major setback in front 53 where they used to control 40 barangays two years ago. By the end of 1989, rebel control was reduced to 25 and by November, 1989, the front was completely defenestrated," he said.

The front, which includes the towns of Magpet, President Roxas, Matalam, Antipas and Kidapawan, is now rid of CPP/NPA shadow government, militia, forced taxation and rebel atrocities, Soriano said.

He added that in front 72, comprising the towns of Makilala and Tulun, the number of CPP/NPA controlled areas had been reduced from 31 to 20 in 1989.

He said that people sympathetic to the CPP/NPA cause have begun to change their minds while those forced by NPA guns have vowed to fight back.

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## Student writers pit talents

SOME 200 editors and writers of public and private secondary school publications will pit talents during the regional secondary schools press conference (RSSPC) at the North Cotabato School of Arts and Trades in Barangay Sudapin, Kidapawan, Cotabato from January 9 to 12.

Dianar P. Kadon, director 3 of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, said the theme of the conference is "The Role of The School Paper in Promoting Peace Education."

The student writers and their advisers will come from the nine school districts of Central Mindanao namely Maguindanao, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur I, Lanao del Sur II, Iligan City, Marawi City and Cotabato City.

Kadon said they represent at least 50 student publications.

Local writers and national correspondents have been invited to share their expertise in the subjects of news and feature writing, editorial writing, layouting, copyreading and headline making, sports writing and other journalistic fields.

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## Grenade blast kills 1, wounds 12 others

A WOMAN was killed on the spot and 12 other people, including a German, were seriously wounded after an unidentified man lobbed a grenade into a mini bus Saturday in Cagayan de Oro City.

In a report received by Constabulary Chief Major-General Ramon E. Montano, the fatality was identified as Mitsuaki Waga, 25, who died on the spot.

Wounded were Ludwig Gerhard, 57, a German tourist, Annie Baroy, Janice Pacama, Arani Desano, Jonathan Waga, Marilou Udang, Lester Victor Udang, 4, Victor Udang Sr, Conception Sandig, Eleme Baroy, Linda Casino and Vincent Sandig.

Investigation disclosed that the passengers were in a mini-bus driven by Jonathan Waga when a man at the corner of Borja and Captain Vicente Streets threw a grenade at the vehicle.

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## Robbers kill Korean in Albay

A SOUTH Korean national working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) was killed and another was seriously wounded when they were shot by robbers in Albay.

South Korean embassy and Philippine military officials said Sun Mi Kim was killed and Man Suck Park was injured when one of three gunmen shot them inside a jeep they had hired.

The Koreans were going to a resort house near Mayon volcano when the gunmen hitched a ride. The men pulled out their guns inside the jeep after a short distance and announced a hold-up.

The driver of the vehicle brought the Koreans to the Albay Provincial Hospital.

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## Pig farm robbed of P140,000

SIX armed men took more than P140,000 in cash and pieces of jewellery from a piggy farm in Barangay Tungkong-Mangga, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Farm manager Luis Munoz, 27, was beaten up by one of the suspects when he refused to open the cash box.

Munoz and nine farm helpers were hogtied by the robbers, who were armed with guns and bladed weapons.

A bank book owned by employee Susan Lagrimas was also taken by the group who fled in the farm's service jeep.

Troops from 145th PC company, who arrived at the farm minutes after the robber found the service jeep abandoned at the junction of Tungkong Mangga Road and Novaliches, Quezon City.

Witnesses said three men carrying a big bag boarded a bus bound for Metro Manila, while three others boarded jeepney bound for Bigat, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

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## Cracker' kills teener

BACOLOD CITY — A teenager died at the Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital from firecracker burns, police reported.

Police said Joe Alvin Oga, 18, of Rosario Hinigarang, succumbed to third degree burns all over his body.

Early reports said Oga was making firecrackers at his house when the incident occurred.

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## Brother kills brother

A SIDEWALK vendor was stabbed dead by his younger brother following a heated altercation in a depressed Navotas community.

Abelardo Fernandez, 30, of Tabing-ilog, Block 33, Phase 2, Area 2, Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, died from stab wounds in the left arm and chest.

The suspect, Dondon Fernandez, 28, escaped, police said.

The victim's daughter, Angelita, 13, told Navotas police chief Col. Alberto Nepomuceno that her uncle had earlier slapped her and burned her school uniform.

## Love conquers cold, culture and jet lag

WHEN one sees a foreigner walking down the street with a Filipina, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

"Di Ermita," says artist Santiago Rose.

"Well I can tell if she's a beanie," says David Baradas.

"Must be a pick up," declares a Makati businessman.

"Siguro domestic na sinusuwerte," laughs another.

What cynics, you think. But where does the blame lie? In some tourists who come for sex tours? In would-be mail-order brides who hope for a better life by sending their names and addresses to international pen-pal magazines? In servicemen who quell their longings, after weeks at sea, on hapless victims of the trade?

Santi says that for a time in sagada, if a foreigner came with a Filipina, "babatuhin sila." The locals didn't want a repeat of Puerto Galera in Sagada. And if the Filipina wasn't that kind of woman? "Malas nita."

What if the mixed couple were mature, say in their 40's or 50's and obviously married?

"How sweet" and "Iba na yan," were the answers.

What if the young, mixed couple had a baby, obviously theirs, in tow?

"Then it's OK because they're a family, they're together, it changes things." But the unrelenting cynic laughs. "Of course I'd wonder, did she start out as a pick-up?"

But what if the woman was obviously well-educated, and not from a low economic level?

"Hump, pa sasyal pa siya. Siguro social climber. Gusto maging cultured, malayang ng titulo ang pangalan. She probably thinks a Filipina isn't good enough for her."

Now turn the tables. Filipino male, foreign female.

"If he's good-looking," says one male, "then it's not surprising. But if he's not then I'll think: wow, nakakoto na naman ang Pinoy!"

Says a woman friend: "Ang daming magandang Pinay, why choose a foreigner?"

"It's machismo that makes it difficult," says the Makati businessman. "A Filipina will always adapt. She's willing to do just about anything to make a marriage work, keep her man even if it means changing her ways and bringing up the kids Western. But a Filipino has this machismo thing, a woman has to adapt to him, and maybe foreigners can't accept this."

But more nobly perhaps, could it be naturalism?

Filmmaker Eric de Guia married to german Katrin, definitely wants his children brought up "Filipino" that they're not even allowed to eat at an American hamburger chain. "Why should they?" he says, "when they can eat Filipino?"

Then there are those, not quite completely cynical, who spot a mixed couple, regardless of which is which and shrug and say something like this: "You know foreigners. The women, they like dark, earthy men. Something primal, animal, macho. They think they are better lovers. And the men, they like slim, dark, exotic, doe-eyed, long-haired Asians. They probably have fantasies of their being servile and erotic, able to be dominated. Hah?"

The romantic, ready to see everything with Valentine-tinted glasses, will gaze dreamily and say: "It must be true love. Look at them, willing to overcome the differences in culture, the separation from family, friends and things familiar. What a sacrifice for love."

As the man and woman make the necessary adjustments in the course of the relationship, whether it be in

everyday trivialities or in major changes such as a new language, a new religion or a new home country, it is not so much them as their children who are faced with the challenges of straddling two cultures. East or West? And where shall the twain meet?

Here a few attempts at answers.

Zoubeida Lemqadden and Rene Aquitania

## Not the guy you'd bring home to mother

ZOUBEIDA Lemqadden is like a lovely girl. Slim and tiny, she has an arresting face, the kind of face that would be at home on glossy magazine covers. At 26, going on 20, she is vibrant and energetic, with a personality that radiates into every corner of the room. Before you even see her coming, you can hear her quick sentences in accented English peppered with oo, di ba, o size.

Rene Aquitania is tall, dark and unassuming, what a highland warrior should have looked like. He sports long hair tied at the nape, rubber slippers, rolled up faded jeans and a denim jacket. If you took him home to mother she would grit her teeth and demand to know what you were in a struggling 27-year-old artist.

Talkative, he isn't limiting his responses to siguro, maaari, sana, bokit hindi. He is a shy, reluctant victim to a tape recorder and questions, the answer to which seems he'd rather keep to himself. His gaze remains fixed out the window as the evening falls over the main thoroughfares of Baguio City, his thoughts far away, probably dwelling on the space he so desperately seeks.

But these two very contrasting personalities are a couple.

Zoubeida was born in Algeria, of Muslim parentage. At the age of three the family migrated to Belgium, where they made a life for themselves in Brussels, but kept close to their Moroccan culture. They were practising Muslims, but Zoubeida rebelled. "My parents were very strict and they wanted me to wear a turban, the long dress. But I was a teenager. I went around with my punk friends."

She finished cosmetology in school.

For 10 years she worked as a model for sculptors and painters in an art academy.

"I have always been the inspiration for artists."

In November of 1987 she took a trip to Manila intending to stay for two months. Her friends took her to a film showing at Goethe House. It was part of a workshop

on film-making that Rene had been attending. They met and he casually invited her to see Baguio where he lived. About a week later there she was. And there she stayed.

"I love Baguio," she says. "I love the weather, I have a lot of friends here, and of course, there is Baguio where he lived. About a week later there she was. And there she stayed.

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"I love Baguio," she says. "



Parangal sa Dakilang Pilipino awardees: from (left): Mrs. Lidy Alejandro, who received award for husband Leán Alejandro; Mrs. Labayen, for Bishop Julio Labayen; Prof. Randy David, Mrs. Felicidad Olalia, Sen. Lorenzo Tanada, Sen. Alran Bengzon, and Rep. Oca Santos.

## Another kind of heroism

THERE seems to be in the country today a hunger for heroes, which probably means that the morale of the nation is low. A tremendous need is perceived for men who are larger than life, who are capable of superhuman feats, so that as long as such men are around, there is hope that our troubles can be surmounted. The Filipino soldier, when he is not pulling a coup, is often heroic, and soldiers have been honoured accordingly, which is not at all a bad idea.

The danger is not that we will ever lack heroes, but that we will recognise only one kind, and eventually have only one kind, the kind that bears a gun.

This is the reason for the special relevance of the Parangal sa Dakilang Pilipino, an award programme of the PDP Laban and the Jaime N. Ferrer Foundation which recently honoured six Filipinos for their commitment to the service of country and people.

These were former Senator Lorenzo M.

Tanada, the country's greatest living nationalist, recipient of the Grand Award;

Secretary Alfredo R.A. Bengzon;

Bishop Julio Labayen who has campaigned hard for environmental protection;

and launched a programme for the upliftment and protection of the Dumagats, a minority in his province of Quezon; Prof.

Randolph S. David of the Third World

Studies Center of the University of the

Philippines whose television programme

has helped enlighten the Filipino public on

the crucial national issues; Rolando Olalia, the martyred labour leader; and

Leán Alejandro, the martyred youth

leader. That two of the awards were posthumous show that dedication to a cause is

not without risks, and that therefore it

takes a great deal of courage to be in their

league. Another posthumous awardee

might have been the late Jaime N. Ferrer,

freedom fighter during the Second World

War, and an outstanding long-time public

servant, who was killed by assassins while

he served as Secretary of Local Govern-

ments in 1987 — but for the fact that the foundation that bears his name is co-sponsor of the programme.

Nobody called them heroes — the citations did not use that word. But there is no doubt about the impact of their deeds on the survival chances of the country and that therefore they deserve the gratitude of the race. Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel who, as chairman of PDP Laban, personally brain-stormed this award programme says, "We are merely pinpointing individuals in various fields whose performance should serve as the standard for public servants and for those who would serve others. In effect, what we are saying is that there's a wide variety of leaders in our country that we can rely upon not only for development but also for the preservation of our democratic institutions."

Rep. Oscar Santos was the workhorse who chaired the committee that searched for nominees all over the country. Says he, "I think all we wanted to do was give recognition where it is due. For instance, Sen. Tanada. It's high time we honoured him while he is still with us." And honour him we should, says Santos, not only for his nationalism but also for his integrity. Walang kalokohan iyan. The same could be said, incidentally, of Santos himself.

Secretary Bengzon, says Rep. Santos, stands out for the way he successfully fought for the genetics law. Consider, says Santos, that a couple of years ago, the country's total drug consumption was worth P9.2 billion. And 80 per cent of that was consumed by the upper 20 per cent of the population, while the balance of consumption or 20 per cent was shared by 80 per cent of the population. The genetics law will help correct that imbalance, he says.

If it were possible to have another awardee this year for community service, it would have been Bernabe Buscayno (Kumanderante Danté to you) who is now proving in his native Bamban, Tarlac that a farmers cooperative can succeed in the Philippines. It was a very close choice

between him and Bishop Labayen, says Santos. Prof. Randy David, on the other hand, has helped the common man understand current public issues more than any other media person. Rolando Olalia and Leán Alejandro were probably easy choices in the act of serving, they have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The good news is that there were plenty of nominees, and the nominations committee had to trim them down to 150 before getting the board of judges, chaired by Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, to work. Other judges were Supreme Court Justice Biden, UP President Jose Abueva, Dean Armando Malisy, Quezon City councilor Francis Pangilinan, Fr. Nerebes of Ateneo, and former labour secretary Bobbit Sanchez.

By launching the Parangal, the PDP Laban has behaved like a civic organisation, perhaps a welcome innovation in Philippine politics. And they are going to have more off-season (that is, off-political season) activities, reveals Sen. Pimentel. This summer, they are scheduled to implement a nationwide "Caravan for Peace" to arouse popular commitment to civilian supremacy and constitutional order. They also hope to get a wider public understanding of the party's ideology. "We believe in a nationalist way of developing our country," says Pimentel. "We also believe in structuring society so that wealth and power should be redistributed and not concentrated in a few." He hastens to add that they hope to do this through a programme of the government with a legislative component fully endorsed by the people.

In the meantime, he says, Congress should concentrate on two major issues: bread, meaning the economy, and justice, instead of nitpicking with the executive branch. "This is not to say that we should give up our role as fiscalizers of the government," he stresses, "but we should cut down on the antics that we in the Senate are sometimes guilty of."

On his direct consultations with the people, Santos reports that what the people want more than anything else is to see that those who took advantage of their resources are brought to jail. These include prominent figures in the Marcos government. But as it is, he says, some of these have found their way into the Senate, into the House of Representatives, and even in the powerful Commission on Appointments where they pass judgment on qualifications and competence of would-be public servants. The Sandiganbayan has not been effective, he says, because it is swamped with cases that it cannot handle. He believes, therefore, that the constitution should be amended so that the regular court can try cases now reserved only for the Sandiganbayan.

Sen. Pimentel agrees that there are constitutional provisions that are badly in need of improvement, but he wonders if some recent moves to amend the constitution are not motivated by a hidden agenda. And that hidden agenda is to remove the Senate as an obstacle to the American objective of maintaining their facilities in Philippine military bases. That could be the agenda, too, behind the proposal for a snap presidential election, as well as a discernible campaign to subvert the reputation of the Senate.

The party, he assures, will stand firmly against that foreign agenda, even as it works for its own nationalist and egalitarian cause. That cause can be served, he believes, not only by partisan electoral politics, but also by projects like Parangal sa Dakilang Pilipino. The Filipino public, too, needs to make its own adjustments, and one of them is to adopt the attitude that being useful is once more fashionable, and doing a good job however modest and mundane also deserves not only our encouragement but also our admiration.

By promoting such a popular adjustment, the PDP Laban hopes to prove that as a movement it is truly what Sen. Pimentel calls the wave of the future.

## Visit to Tacloban



Agustina Go, owner of AGUS on-the-Gulf.

RAIN was falling on Tacloban as monsoon rains delayed from December, they said — but no one complained much, or let it deter the pace or range of living. The rains caused low water pressure, and coincided with brownouts, but people smiled and coped, and spoke of problems and plans, resorts and food, and were unfailingly gracious to food researchers.

Lechon bought from one of a row of lechon shops on the main street was almost our first taste of Tacloban food — lechon eaten with suka' bawang rather than sauce, and not with rice, but with gaway, a tuber boiled, sliced, and effective at cutting the grease.

This was our introduction to the

lechon territory that is Leyte.

Only here, in the town of Dagami, is binagol made: a hard root called talyan (brought in from Samar) is scraped/grated on a homemade machine, then packed into a coconut half-shell along with ground malagkit, flavouring (milk, butter, eggs, peanuts, vanilla) and a "sauce" of coconut milk. Wrapped in three layers of banana leaves and securely tied, the delicacy is then boiled for six hours over a coconut-shell fire. The result is delivered to Tacloban, to be sold but daily on Zamora (the city's main/kakanin street). To eat it, one unwraps, turns the shell over on the plate, cases it off, and is left with a mound sauced on top, body below — sweet and filling like suman, made not with rice, but with a tuber.

In the restaurant we found yet another facet of Leyteño food: the predilection for fish fresh off the fishing boat. AGUS (Old Road, Sagkahan, tel. 321-2647) is located right in a fish market, beyond the fish-dealing area, being built out over the water, within sight of the finger wharfs and fishing boats unloading. Owner Agustina B. Go started out with a market fish stall, and has been in fish-dealing and in the restaurant business for about 40 years. She opened Agus because of friends dropping in to eat, and eventually taking over her dining room.

Breakfast with Ms. Go consisted of a platter of different broiled fishes: sandatan (pam-

milk. This is used here quite as much and as happily as it is in the Bicol region, and constitutes a major dimension of Leyteño cooking. At Agus we had a delightful salad of boiled skinned eggplants dressed with coconut milk and garnished with chopped red bell peppers. At Simugha we had dagmay, the Leyteño laing, in which gabi leaves are tied in loose knots, and cooked in coconut milk and ginger; and a langka-crab salad, also in coconut milk. Severino Gonzalo Cam, retired teacher and dedicated cook, described to us what he started to cut out in half. As we started to cut out in half. Sybaritic were the baked稻, scallops on the white half-shell (the other is coloured), baked with butter and toasted garlic. Juicy were the steamed sea prawns and crabs. Memorable was the whole meal, taken with a smile and in peace and leisure.

Tacloban is not all gabi/gaway/tyilan, however, not fish/seafood and gafe. A delicious specialty we encountered was pakdol, the best of which is to be found at the DAHLIA SA YFO FASTFOOD AND COFFEE HOUSE (Calle Real, tel. 321-3427), owned and run by Anacorita (Coring) and Roman Reyes.

Pakdol is carabeef stew — bones, marrow and meat — with pechay, flavoured and made fragrant by lemongrass, ginger and leeks. It is made only from the back legs of the carabeef (carabeef is a Leyte favourite, and is legal, because only animals beyond working age are slaughtered), and carefully skinned and simmered and fragrant. The broth is golden and fragrant; the meat tender and of good flavour. All the carabeef legs their butcher can supply are cooked daily by Coring, and always sold out — eaten at lunch and dinner, taken home (they pack servings in plastic bags for the inevitable rush), consumed as pulutan or (the broth) for post-hangover reviving.

Coring is pretty, feminine, and power-packed. She started in the business with three calderos on a counter to supplement her husband's income. Starting with a P20 puhaman, she served paksiw na isda, pritong isda and gulay na langka, charging P30 and P25. Now Dahlia sa Iyo seats more than a hundred, is busy all day, and some of the Reyes' five chil-

dren earn salaries for helping out in the restaurant as well as in the raising of pigs, chickens and vegetables.

Dahlia sa Iyo, Agus and Simugha House, present success stories that warm the heart. Many of us think of the provinces with some pity, since they lack the consumer goods, the big buildings, the opportunities, the glitz of Manila and Cebu. Of course the Amorsolo landscapes do conceal poverty and oppression, the lack of education and training services and opportunities. The provinces certainly need better hospitals, more industries and less unemployment, more development. But the happy side of the picture is sketched by people like the Reyeses, the Gios and the Amors, who make their own way, create their own development, and build solidly within their communities.

Popularity known by Filipinos as "la suerte" and native to Southeast Asia, aglaonemas come in many sizes, colours, and leaf patterns.

The plant is no ordinary "garden variety" specimen either. It is the most promising of several genus Dr Romeo R. Gutierrez of the Department of Surgery, UP-PGH, has been hybridizing during the past seven years.

If the deal pushes through,

according to Gutierrez, the American company will mass produce and sell P50,000 plants in the first three years, with royalty of five to ten per cent of gross going to him.

The leaders claimed that Sanchez and Tan alleged committed neglect of duty and misconduct in office.

Under the law, an elected

official may be recalled from

office by his constituents or

illegal logging activities.

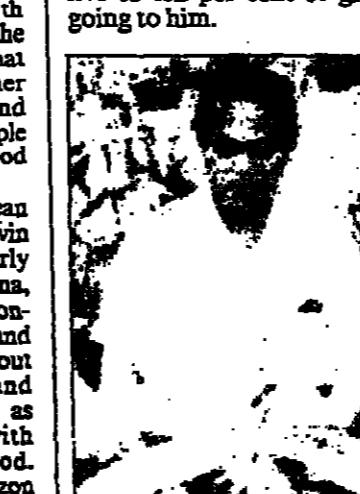
The two trucks were apprehended by Captain Danao and his men last month and impounded for six weeks in the compound of the municipal building of Solano until these were ordered released upon the intercession of a certain "Virgil Castro," reportedly a secretary of Gov. Patricia Dulao.

Concerned citizens and civic groups monitoring illegal logging activities in Nueva Vizcaya also expressed disgust over the release of the two trucks.

Reports by the Solano INP disclosed that Castro claimed that the effort to release the trucks was initiated by a newly-organized provincial task force on illegal logging under Danao.

Danao said he resisted the efforts of Castro to release the impounded vehicles, but

Dr Romeo Gutierrez shows the new plant he developed, dubbed as "illumination."



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KPBC: 1st runner-up but still smiling

## Bad coaching?

SIR, I am a reader of the Arab Times and through it I learned that a new basketball tournament, the KPBL League, was starting this Friday. I think that this is probably one of the best and most well-organized tournaments that the Filipinos have ever organized.

I also got a chance, through this League, to see my favorite team — KPBC — in action on Friday. This team has a number of talented players, who are well-supported by their team manager Abdulla Tifuni. But unfortunately they lost to a much better team this week.

I have played the game at college level and think the problem of the team is its coach. A number of players resent the way that the team is handled on the court.

Anyone who watched KPBC in action against EEI must have noticed that the coach used only six players for the whole game while there were five more players sitting in the bench. The players on the bench were also quite good and KPBC could have won the match had the coach used his players in a much better way and given rest to his top squad.

As it happened the players hardly had any rest and were tired towards the end of the match. In the match against KHC Bayan, KPBC were leading by nearly 30 points at one stage of the match, so why did the coach not rest his top players and use all the ones sitting on the bench. In this way the best players would have been in better condition for the latter games.

The bad handling of the team reflected on their performance towards the end and it is quite clear where the blame should lie. I pity the players and the manager. I hope that the manager will do something about it.

A concerned KPBC fan (name and address supplied)

EEI-BURGAN beat KPBC to win the One-Day Championship as the Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) got off to a magnificent start at the Keifan Gymnasium on Friday, to the delight of nearly 1,000 Filipinos who watched the first day's proceedings.

The day's activities commenced at 9:00 am with the brief opening ceremonies emceed by Marie Palacios and Ed Balanag.

The parade of the 10 participating teams with their respective charming muses followed with timely execution to the tune of the Stars and Stripes march music.

The participants, as well as the crowd, were welcomed by the KPBL secretariat, headed by Guillermo Ham Limdimas, secretary-general who stressed in his welcome address that the KPBL and its activities are concentrated on the sport that is much loved by the Filipinos. He thanked all those who've helped and waited patiently for the staging of the event.

The oath of sportsmanship was led by Edgardo Mateo, the KPBL commissioner and this was followed by the formal opening of the games.

This was then followed by the presentation of the official theme



EEI-BURGAN: One-Day Championship winners

song of the KPBL 1990 season, "One Shining Moment."

Next was the judgement of "Miss KPBL", Best Muse, and the "Best Uniform". Chosen by the panel of judges composed of KPBL officials to be Miss KPBL was Miss Alice Versoza of the KPBC team. The Best Uniform award went to KHC-Bayan team.

The drawing of lots for the One-Day Championship followed before the exit of the participating teams.

The commercial toss was next, and this proceeded with the assistance of Ms KPBL, Ms Alice Versoza and Bert Marin, the labour attaché from the Philippine embassy in Kuwait. Also present were other staff members of the Philippine embassy namely Mohammad Taha Guionoma, Omar Mustari, Al Santos and Lando Caburao (bowling king).

### Eliminations

First game: Kay and Associates lost to KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace, 31-38

Second game: KHC-Bayan beat Nissan Al Babtain, 59-35

Third game: KPBC beat KDD, 66-41

Fourth game: Al Ghani beat Trico, 36-30

Fifth game: EEI-BURGAN beat KRP, 57-30

### Semifinals

First game: KHC-Bayan vs KRP

KHC-Bayan blasted KRP 43-28 at the start of the semifinal round to qualify for the finals. The first half was close (16-13 in favour of KHC) as speedy Bolito managed to keep his team within striking distance of its eventual conqueror. The second half however, was an entirely different story as Mr X-Ortega responding to the pro-KHC gallery exploded for 25 points to seal the fate of KRP. He made a total of 37 points and was supported by Abubo with 10. On the KRP side only Bolito managed to score in twin marks, 15 points.

### Finals

Lots were drawn to determine who among the 3 teams — KHC-Bayan, KPBC, EEI-BURGAN will play each other first.

### First game: KHC-Bayan vs KPBC

KPBC was too much to handle for the Mr X led KHC-Bayan squad. Final score was 95-74. Lito de la Cruz, the 1987 Palarong Pilipino MVP paced his team with 21 points, followed by Castro 18, Domingo 13.



Miss KPBL doing the ceremonial toss.

Second game: KPBC vs Trico A re-match of sorts, KPBC outdistanced the Trico-5 in the home stretch, final score 48-41. It was a close contest all throughout reminiscent of the 1989 showdown, KPBC vs Magnolia.

Third game: KPBC vs EEI-BURGAN 5. Final score was EEI-BURGAN 65, KPBC 63. It was the best match of the day as both teams had no clear advantage until the dying seconds of the game. KPBC losing its ace-playmaker Lito de la Cruz on fouls found refuge in the combination of Castro, Domingo, Arganoza, Barcelona and Perez with 37 points and Abubo had 18.

Second game: KPBC vs EEI-BURGAN

KPBC having the disadvantage of playing 2 consecutive games prior to this match lost a squeaker to the well rested EEI-BURGAN 5. Final score was EEI-BURGAN 65, KPBC 63. It was the best match of the day as both teams had no clear advantage until the dying seconds of the game. KPBC losing its ace-playmaker Lito de la Cruz on fouls found refuge in the combination of Castro, Domingo, Arganoza, Barcelona and Perez with 37 points and Abubo had 18.

Finals

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### Final results

When the smoke cleared EEI-BURGAN emerged champions, followed by KPBC 1st runner-up, and KHC-Bayan 2nd runner-up.

The Mabuhay Mythical Five as chosen by the KPBL officials were: Greg Lugo — EEI-BURGAN; Garcia — EEI-BURGAN; X-Ortega — KHC-Bayan; Lito de la Cruz — KPBC; Edwin Castro — KPBC.

The Mabuhay MVP award was given to "The Samiya Boy" — Edwin Castro for his overall impact in the day's competitions.

### "KPBL" meeting

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, at the Mabuhay Restaurant at exactly 8:00 pm. All teams are requested to send their representatives to the meeting for drawing of lots to determine groupings for the games proper, tentatively set for Thursday, February 22. Watch out for the schedule of games in the Arab Times.

But barely one minute later at 15-0 down, Cane signalled to the chair umpire he was quitting.

"I served well in the first set. Then it was over," Cane said.

Becker's semifinal opponent is Magnus Gustafsson who wore down Jonas Svensson 6-7 (7-3) 6-3 6-4 in an all-Swedish final.

Second seed Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 10 in the world, toppled lanky Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic 6-3 3-6 6-4 to set up the prospect of an all-German final.

## Navratilova overwhelms Whitlinger

CHICAGO, Feb 17. (Reuters): Martina Navratilova fell short of perfection yesterday but the top seed was still far more than Tami Whitlinger could handle at the \$500,000 Chicago women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova just missed out on a second straight shutout as she beat Whitlinger 6-0 6-1 to reach today's semifinals against her former doubles partner, Pam Shriver.

Shriver beat fellow-American Linda Harvey-Wild 6-1 6-2 as the seeded players romped through their quarterfinal matches.

The other semifinal will have second-seeded American Zina Garrison going against number five Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in a rematch of last year's semifinal won by Garrison.

Garrison beat Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3 7-5, while Maleeva overwhelmed Ros Fairbank of the US 6-1 6-0.

Navratilova has been on top of her form this week. She has lost just five games in her three matches and had a winning string of 24 games before losing the fourth game of the second set against Whitlinger.

Navratilova totally dominated the first set as fellow-American Whitlinger won only seven points.

"You have to pour it on. Give some of these girls a little, they take a lot," said Navratilova.

The winning habit appears likely to continue against Shriver. Navratilova has a 34-3 career edge against Shriver and has won the last 24 times.

Shriver's last win against Navratilova was in the quarterfinals of the 1982 US Open.

Navratilova was amused to notice Shriver scouting her match against Whitlinger.

"I saw her today," Navratilova said. "I don't know what she could learn that she doesn't know already."

## Becker in semifinals

BRUSSELS, Feb 17. (Reuters): Top seed Boris Becker moved into the semifinals of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament yesterday after Italian Paolo Cane retired with a back injury while trailing 6-4 2.

Cane, who flew back to Milan for treatment after suffering the injury in his second-round match on Wednesday, had been a doubtful starter.

The temperamental Italian, who beat Mats Wilander in leading his country to victory over Sweden in the Davis Cup first round, appeared not to be hampered by his injury until the fourth game of the second set.

In the fifth game he was visibly holding back when serving but continued to play after receiving medical assistance during the statutory break.

But barely one minute later at 15-0 down, Cane signalled to the chair umpire he was quitting.

"I served well in the first set. Then it was over," Cane said.

Becker's semifinal opponent is Magnus Gustafsson who wore down Jonas Svensson 6-7 (7-3) 6-3 6-4 in an all-Swedish final.

Second seed Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 10 in the world, toppled lanky Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic 6-3 3-6 6-4 to set up the prospect of an all-German final.

## ATP respond to McEnroe charges

TORONTO, Feb 17. (Reuters): The ATP Tour defended itself yesterday against criticisms made by John McEnroe against the ATP's chief executive officer, Hamilton Jordan.

McEnroe on Thursday aimed his well-known temper at the new Tour, which he called disappointing, and at Jordan, whom he called an absentee-leader who "doesn't know anything about tennis," and who "knew how to take advantage of us."

John Wayne Richmond, the ATP Tour's commissioner of North America, vigorously defended Jordan yesterday.

Hamilton would like to be in every place all the time," Richmond said, adding that Jordan had made an appearance at the San Francisco event last week."

Those outbursts upset the fifth-seeded Berger, who said later that he was dismayed that McEnroe questioned calls that were clearly correct.

The fourth-ranked McEnroe took a while to get into a groove — which includes some mini-tantrums against the umpire in the first set.

Those outbursts upset the fifth-seeded Berger, who said later that he was dismayed that McEnroe questioned calls that were clearly correct.

The fourth-ranked McEnroe, who served brilliantly throughout, did not argue with Berger. "I'd spend money to do that myself — to check and see that my vision hasn't faltered," McEnroe said. "I feel uncomfortable and tense and that might affect my ability to judge circumstances."

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3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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ARAB TIMES

**Lendl and McEnroe to clash in semifinals**

TORONTO, Feb 17. (Reuters): Ivan Lendl struggled to beat Kevin Curren 6-7 6-6 3, while John McEnroe celebrated his 31st birthday yesterday by dominating Jay Berger 6-4 6-0 in the quarter finals of the \$1.2 million Skydome World Tennis Tournament.

The victories put the top-seeded Lendl and third seed McEnroe into today's semifinals where they will meet for the 33rd time in their careers. Lendl holds a 17-15 edge.

The other semifinal will pit sixth-seed Tim Mayotte, who beat fourth-seed, fellow-American Aaron Krickstein 4-6 6-4 7-6 (8-6), against second seed Brad Gilbert of the US who overcame unseeded Cze-

choslovak Petr Korda 3-6 7-6 2.

The Lendl-Curren second-set tiebreaker, won by Lendl 14-12, produced the finest tennis of the week. The play was breathtaking. Curren failed to convert on seven match points as Lendl produced the tennis that has made him the world's number one player.

"It was very tight," Lendl said. "You just got to be very lucky to win matches like that. You have to feel very fortunate to save one match point and seven times fortunate when you save seven match points."

The Eight-seeded Curren had an "emotional and physical let-down," in the

beginning of the third set and fell behind 3-0 opening the door wide for Lendl.

"I'm happy with my strategy, I played him right," said the 22nd-ranked Curren. "I just didn't take advantage when I put myself in a position to win."

The fourth-ranked McEnroe took a while to get into a groove — which includes some mini-tantrums against the umpire in the first set.

Those outbursts upset the fifth-seeded Berger, who said later that he was dismayed that McEnroe questioned calls that were clearly correct.

"The guy's got to see an eye doctor," the 10th-ranked Berger said. "The calls he

complained about were ridiculous. I'll give him the money (for the doctor)."

"I actually had a lot of respect for the guy coming into the match," Berger added. "He's a great player and I don't know him well, but I'm sure he's a nice guy. But I don't really feel that needs to be done."

The fourth-ranked McEnroe, who served brilliantly throughout, did not argue with Berger. "I'd spend money to do that myself — to check and see that my vision hasn't faltered," McEnroe said. "I feel uncomfortable and tense and that might affect my ability to judge circumstances."

## Filcheck rated chess tourney starting Feb 23

THE first round match of the first rated tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) will start on Friday, February 23 at 9:00 am at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

All participants have been divided into two groups A and B according to their rating and previous tournament standing. Each group shall play a 7-round Swiss system to determine the champion and the three runners up. Each player must make his first 45 moves in 1-1/2 hours and the succeeding 15 moves in 30 minutes. A player who exceeds the time regulation will be adjudged loser and his opponent winner of the game. A 30-minute defaulting time will

be observed and a player who defaults two consecutive games shall be considered withdrawn from the rest of the tournament.

First round schedule: (Odd Nos. - white versus even Nos. - black)

Group A - 9:00 am 1. Mauro Burlat, 2. Dads Pates, 3. Diony Bartolome, 4. Mel Espinosa, 5. Hussain Ahmad, 6. Robert Vargas, 7. Jun Emutan, 8. Gil Opiana Jr. 9. Bernard de los Reyes, 10. Nilo Magtangob, 11. Jigs Acodisen, 12. Nonoy Caro, 13. Dedi Hernas, 14. Silver Salvado, 15. Rolly Mercado, 16. Stanley Sawi, 17. Jun Alejandro, 18. Banua Bacay, 19. Alex Espedilla, 20. Fred Marasigan, 21. Vic Corpuz, 22. Robert Daiz.

Group B - 9:00 am 1. Thony Monreal, 2. Rey Cortez, 3. Niel Dumla, 4. Jess Betguen, 5. Romy Pagaduan, 6. Chito Barrios, 7. Remi Montales, 8. Ali Macaya, 9. Arie Martinez, 10. Ramon Cortado, 11. Ingemar Vendiola, 12. Rolly Boado, 13. Rading Moje, 14. Nanding Pollicarpio, 15. Arnel Matutin, 16. Danilo Calasin, 17. Rey Mangornong, 18. Edwin Borigas, 19. Ver Farrales, 20. Romy Racaza, 21.

Meanwhile, the club's election of its first set of officers was held on Friday at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

Acting president Edward Racaza,

presided over the election and called on all elected officials to convene on Friday, February 23 at 9:00 am at the club's headquarters to formalise the position of each officer as called for in the constitution.

The following members were elected as board of directors:

1. Aureliano, Sammy; 2. Barrios, Chito; 3. Betguen, Jess; 4. Borigas, Edwin; 5. Calasin, Danny; 6. Cortado, Mon; 7. Dumla, Niel; 8. Lagmay, Teddy; 9. Macaya, Ali; 10. Mercado, Jun; 11. Moje, Rading; 12. Morel, Thony; 13. Montales, Rene; 14. Pollicarpio, Nanding; 15. Racaza, Edward.

## Padilla, Elliott triumph

INGLEWOOD, California, Feb 17. (AP): Doug Padilla won the two-mile in national record time, and Peter Elliott of Britain won a mile race for the second time in a week, last night in the Los Angeles Times-Eagle Indoor Games.

Padilla bettered his American record with a time of 8 minutes, 15.02 seconds in the meet at the forum. He set the national indoor standard of 8:15.3 in 1985 at San Diego.

Padilla, who broke away from the pack just beyond the mile mark and ran by himself the rest of the way, missed the international two-mile indoor mark of 8:13.2 set by Emiel Puttemans of Belgium in 1973.

As a measure of how much he outdistanced the field, Padilla beat runner Brian Aspinire by more than 17 seconds. Aspinire finished in 8:32.34, and Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland was third in 8:34.13.

"I hoped the pace would be a little faster, but I kind of figured it would be a 'fitter' race," Padilla said.

Elliott, who won the mile at the Meadowlands in New Jersey a week ago, took the times mile in 3:55.51, with Nouredine Mocelli of Algeria second in 3:55.83. Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland was third in 3:56.39.

Elliott's winning time the previous week was 3:52.02.

Danang Everett, who set a world indoor record of 45.04 in the 400-meter relay in West Germany, won the 500 last night with a time of 1:03.19.

American Jackie Joyner-Kersee, world record-holder in the heptathlon and double gold medalist in the Seoul Olympics, won one race and finished second in another.

Joyner-Kersee, the national indoor record-holder in the women's 60-meter hurdles, won that event in 8.01 seconds, well off her American standard of 7.81.

Americans Lynda Tolbert finished second in 8.08, and Donna Waller was third in 8.31.

Joyner-Kersee came back after a brief rest, to finish second to Michelle Finn in the women's 60-meter dash. Finn won in 7.19 and Joyner-Kersee was clocked in 7.32.

Dawn Sowell, American record-holder (7.15) at the distance, withdrew from the final after she slipped and fell on the track following her qualifying heat, slightly injuring her left hip.

Although the injury was not thought to be serious, Sowell decided not to take a chance on aggravating it.

Joyner-Kersee wasn't particularly pleased with her outings, explaining, "I'm having some problems with the hurdles. I'm really trying to work on mechanics. I'm not snapping off the hurdles."

Of her loss to Finn, Joyner-Kersee said with a smile, "coming in second is very humbling."

## Pakistan reach finals

Anwar hits 126 off 99 balls



Saeed Anwar

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb 17. (Reuters): Opener Saeed Anwar led Pakistan to their highest total in a 50 overs-a-side match with a spectacular 126 off 99 balls in their World Series Cup victory over Sri Lanka today.

Pakistan scored 315 for three and Sri Lanka, needing to win to keep alive their slim hopes of appearing in the finals, made a spirited attempt to reach the daunting target, finishing on 288 for eight.

The crowd of 3,854 at the Adelaide Oval was treated to the biggest run fest in the history of the triangular tournament. The 603 runs scored bettered the 593 in Adelaide in January, 1983, when New Zealand posted 297 for six to beat England's 296 for five.

Anwar, whose previous best score in 10 one-day matches was 42 not out, belted eight fours and six sixes in a record World Series Cup opening stand of 202 with Ramiz Raja.

"I beat the 82 by West Indies' Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, also against Sri Lanka, in Melbourne five years ago,"

he said.

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Of her loss to Finn, Joyner-Kersee said with a smile, "coming in second is very humbling."

## Fillon, Keeping and Rahman fight for top spot

With just one day to go of the Messilah Beach Windsurfing Series, sponsored by Merit, less than a point separates the first three board sailors, when their best six results are taken.

Stevie Hutchinson was unable to race on Friday and now has been knocked down from first to fourth place with Mike Quinn still in the running in the 5th place and only six points behind the leader Hadrien Fillion.

The Merit New Year Series is proving to be the most closely contested, since series racing began at the Messilah one and a half years ago. It is also the first time racing has continued through the cold winter months of January and February but the enthusiasm has remained high with the total of 15 hardy competitors in the series, with eight different nationalities among them.

Abdul Rahman Bahman, sponsored by Qabazard Marine, has had the best results over all nine races but with three discs being allowed over the 12-race series, the leader is more

five or six overs and after that I think luck favoured me a little," he said.

Rameez was content to play the anchor role, posting his second successive one-day hundred following the unbeaten 116 he made against Sri Lanka in Hobart on Thursday. His unbeaten 107 contained only three fours and was made off 158 deliveries.

Sri Lanka's efforts to score an unlikely victory were built around a fifth-wicket stand of 128 between skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, who made 64, and Roshan Mahanama, who scored 72.

### Scoreboard

#### PAKISTAN

Rameez Raja not out ..... 107  
Saeed Anwar b Asoka de Silva ..... 126  
Salim Malik c Rameyake b Asoka de Silva ..... 25  
Waheed Akram b Rameyake ..... 34  
Imran Khan not out ..... 1  
Extras (b-5 lb-10 nb-2 w-5) ..... 22  
Total (three wickets 50 overs) ..... 315  
Fall of wickets: 1-202 2-254 3-314  
Did not bat: Javed Miandad, Ejaz Ahmed, Salim Yousef, Waqar Younis, Javed Nadeem, Nadeem

Fall of wickets: 1-55 2-93 3-94 4-123 5-251 6-258 7-271 8-280

Did not bat: K. Wijegunawardene

Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-0-49-0 (1w), Waheed Younis 10-1-35-2 (1nb), Imran Khan 10-0-57-2 (1nb), Nadeem Ghauri 8-0-54-1 (1nb), Imran Khan 10-0-60-0, Ejaz Ahmed 0-11-0 (1w).

Result: Pakistan won by 27 runs.

Man-of-the-Match: Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)

## Britain name squad for Trophy game

THE Great Britain squad to play Pakistan, in the British Airways sponsored Speedbird Trophy was announced to the press yesterday. There are no real changes, except for the inclusion of Casual skipper Simon Clements to the 12 that were defeated by India back in December.

Craig Shipton, the Hubra run-machine will lead the Great Britain team, and will be hoping for a better performance from the players against what is sure to be a very strong Pakistan team. He certainly has the players to do it, with Seward, Hunt, Haseman, Talbot, Clements Arton-Powell and Coulson all capable of taking any bowling attack apart.

The revelation of the season, Glenn Fitzpatrick, looks likely to take the new ball and will be supported by Snowden and Boldy. Ron Seward will provide the variety in the bowling line-up, with his left arm round the wicket "spinners." Peter Hunt could also turn his arm over if Great Britain need a fourth fast-medium.

Shipton himself has taken a lot of wickets in the Speedbird games, but may be forced to keep wicket if John McConville fails a late fitness test. If that happens Talbot or Arton-Powell may be asked to make up to the allotted 45 overs if one of the other bowlers does not come off.

The match will take place at the K.O.C. Grounds Ahmadi on February 25, starting at 9.30. Prizes to the winning team and awards for the Men of the Match are being kindly donated by British Airways through the sales manager, Trevor Owen.



Both teams sporting their Holiday Inn hats

## Holiday Inn rout SAS

THE Holiday Inn squash team beat SAS Hotel 10-1 to win the first of many battles for The Sultan Center Cup at Holiday Inn's Apollo Fitness Centre recently.

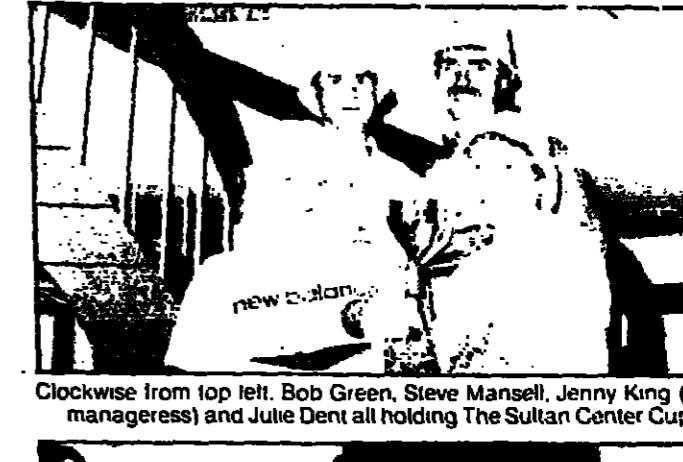
Previous battles between the two sides have been closely-fought affairs which has led to many return encounters and the introduction of a trophy, provided by The Sultan Center which is held by the winning team until the next challenge.

When asked to account for the dominance of Holiday Inn, team captain Bob Green: "both teams had a couple of good players missing — so that made a little difference. We have two new good players on our squad, Adrian King and Mike Lee, and they certainly made a difference."

"But perhaps the most important factor was our team spirit and determination to perform well. We had 17 good players fighting for 11 team positions. Everyone played their best squash, particularly Ahmad Safia who trounced SAS captain Steve Mansell with the loss of only a few points."

Jane Drake also did well by fighting her way into the men's team and then beating Dave King. Even our first reserve Sunit Aurora was standing by, hoping for a last minute inclusion. If this keeps up, The Sultan Center Cup will become part of the Apollo furniture—but I'm sure that SAS will have something to say about that."

The Holiday Inn provided the teams with a buffet, and also Holiday Inn sun hats and armbands. Both the team captains were also given bath robes.



The players socialising after the match.

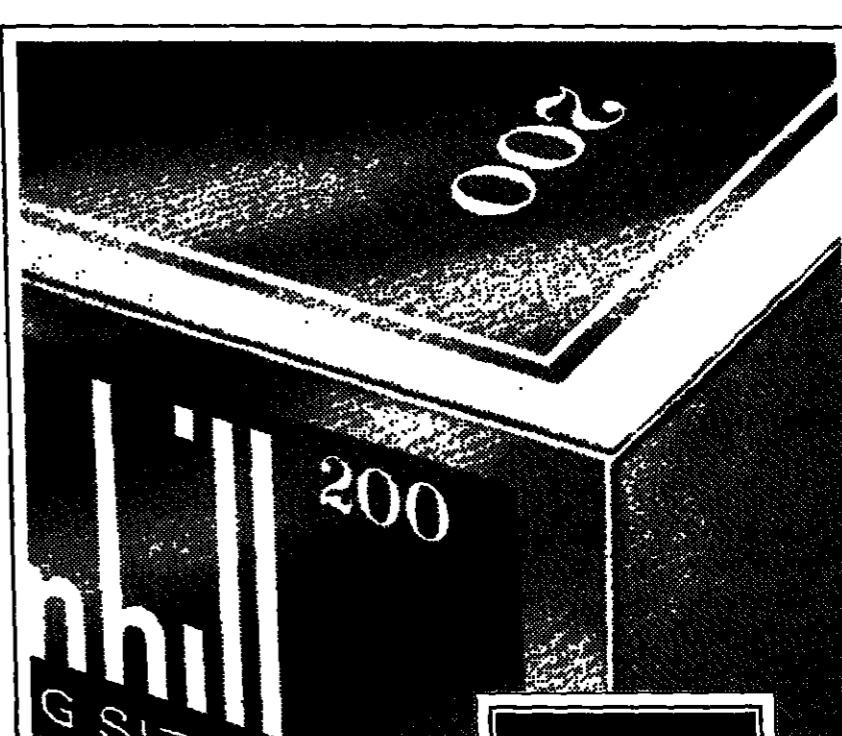
Results (Holiday Inn names first):

Bob Green (capt) beat Andy Richardson 3-0; Ahmad Safia beat Steve Mansell (capt) 3-0; Adrian King beat Dave Prentice 3-1; Julian Gill beat Graham Dunsby 3-2; Mike Lee beat Amer Barakat 3-0; Hamish Dow beat Phil Reevy 3-0; Mohamad Borai beat Pete Birch 3-0; Ghynn Gatland beat

Robert Relastic 3-1; Jane Drake beat Dave King 3-0; Mary Dredge beat Anne Mansell 3-0; Julie Dent lost to Pauline Cox 2-3.

Notice — change of date: The handicap knockout at the Apollo Fitness Centre of the Holiday Inn is now every Tuesday at 6 pm. Everyone welcome. For details contact Julie Dent Tel 4742000 ext 6700.

## The ultimate King Size from Dunhill



Taste has long been a priority with Dunhill's blenders. A quality to be upheld in true Dunhill tradition.

Today, the freshness and flavour of Dunhill King Size is protected by foil - a practise unknown in Alfred Dunhill's day. Some things do change. But only for the best.

Always in good taste



Fillion in action

# Anti-Indian demonstrations threaten World Cup hockey

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 17. (Reuters): The International Hockey Federation (FIH) threatened today to call off the World Cup after anti-Indian demonstrators interrupted India's match against the Netherlands.

Students protesting against India's crackdown against a violent Muslim independence campaign in its Kashmir

state threw stones and sticks towards the Indian players and burned Indian flags.

The game was held up for a short time in the 29th minute with the Dutch leading 2-0 and both teams had to leave the field at halftime to avoid the barrage of missiles.

The match was completed, with the Netherlands winning 5-3, but FIH officials said if the players' safety could not

be guaranteed they might have to abandon the tournament.

"The security of the players is our prime concern and if the organisers cannot stop foreign objects being thrown into the field, we may have to call off the tournament," FIH technical delegate Heinz Wolje said.

Wolje and another technical delegate, Antonio von Ondarza, convened an emer-

gency meeting with the organisers this evening to discuss safety arrangements for tomorrow's match between India and Australia.

"We are reviewing the situation and the tournament cannot continue if a single match is suspended," said Von Ondarza.

The Indians, who have been continuously heckled by the crowds, are under

constant armed protection after they sought extra security before the tournament because of Indo-Pakistani tension over the disputed Kashmir region.

India's defeat by the European champions ended their faint hopes of qualifying for the semifinals while the Dutch went top of Group A, one point ahead of Australia who have a game in hand.

The Dutch were 2-0 up after nine minutes and added two more in the second half before India got on the scoresheet in the 65th minute.

India scored twice more after the Dutch added a fifth in the 66th minute.

Hosts Pakistan also took a big step towards qualifying for the semifinals with a 1-1 draw against England, silver medall-

ists at the last World Cup, to go top of Group B.

Pakistan lead West Germany, who have a game in hand, by one point.

To qualify for the semifinals England would need to beat West Germany in their final game and hope the Germans or Pakistan slip up against other sides.

## England, Scotland win easily

LONDON, Feb 17. (Reuters): A runaway 75-metre try by leftwing Rory Underwood helped seal England's resounding 34-6 victory over Wales in their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match today.

Underwood celebrated his 37th international — an England record for a back — with a try either side of halftime as England recorded their biggest victory over their old rivals.

England, who are now only one game away from their first Grand Slam since 1981, took full advantage of a strong, gusting wind to run up a 16-0 lead at halftime.

Full-back Simon Hodgkinson, who kicked 18 points in all, was on target with two early penalties then centre and Captain Will Carling weaved through the Welsh defence to score in the left-hand corner.

Scotland beat France 21-0 in their match at Murrayfield after the visitors played the last half hour without flanker Alain Carminati who was sent off for stamping.

Full-back Gavin Hastings got the Scots started with a penalty after nine minutes, but they had to wait another 40 minutes before going further ahead.

Fly half Craig Chalmers made the score 6-0 by converting the penalty. English referee Fred Howard awarded against France when he dismissed Carminati for stamping on flanker John Jeffreys.

The dispirited French tried to rouse themselves and full back Serge Danco made a dash through the middle, but as the ball went loose Scotland counter-attacked superbly to go 12-0 up on the hour with a try by Sean Lineen converted by Chalmers.

# Liverpool sail through

## Oldham hold Everton

LONDON, Feb 17. (Reuters): Holders Liverpool reached the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (FA) Cup today with a 3-0 win over Southampton.

But last year's losing finalists Everton failed to end Second Division Oldham Athletic's 32-match unbeaten home record, drawing 2-2.

On a day of no major upsets, the greatest surprise in the fifth round was caused by Oldham, who came back from a seemingly hopeless two goals down at home to snatch a draw on their controversial artificial pitch.

Liverpool, playing the day's only all First-Division tie, were in fine form with Welsh striker Ian Rush scoring his 19th goal of the season.

Aston Villa, second in the League, won 20 at Second Division midlands neighbours West Bromwich Albion.

First Division Crystal Palace, whose goalkeeper cost 50 times as much as Fourth Division Bristol City, who beat First Division Chelsea 3-1 in the fourth round, were held to the only goalless draw of the round at home to Fourth Division Cambridge.

Oldham, who effectively won a place in first leg of their semifinal on Wednesday, seemed buried when Everton went 2-0



Ian Rush

home to Barnsley in an all Second Division encounter.

In the English First Division, champions Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday but remain third, eight points behind Liverpool and seven behind Villa.

In their FA Cup, Third Division Bristol City, who beat First Division Chelsea 3-1 in the fourth round, were held to the only goalless draw of the round at home to Fourth Division Cambridge.

Oldham, who effectively won a place in first leg of their semifinal on Wednesday, seemed buried when Everton went 2-0

ahead in the space of five minutes in the first half.

Scotland striker Graeme Sharp struck in the 22nd minute and former West Ham star Tony Cottee seemed to have secured his old club's revenge with a flick four minutes later.

But Oldham hit back. A 60th minute penalty gave Andie Ritchie his 25th goal of the season and Roger Palmer made it 2-2 with a 66th minute header.

### Results

#### English Football Association Cup

##### Fifth round

Bristol City 0 Cambridge 0

Crystal P 1 Rochdale 0

Liverpool 3 Southampton 0

(Reply on Wednesday, 21 February)

West Bromwich 0 Aston Villa 2

Playing Sunday: Newcastle v Manchester United, Blackpool v Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield United v Barnsley.

#### English Division One

Cov 3 Millwall 1

Notts Forest 1 Notts 1

Sheff Wed 1 Aston Villa 0

Postponed: Charlton v Luton, Liverpool v Derby, Manchester United v Everton, Queens Park Rangers v Manchester City, Southampton v Norwich, Tottenham v Aston Villa, Wimbledon v Crystal Palace.

#### English Division Two

Blackburn 1 Port Vale 0

Bradford 1 Oxford 0

Brighton 1 Leicester 0

Hull 2 Portsmouth 2

Ipswich 2 Leeds 0

Stoke 2 Wolves 0

Watford 1 Sunderland 1

Playing Sunday: Swindon v West Ham

Postponed: Newcastle v Bournemouth, United, Scarborough v Torquay.

#### Scottish Division One

Airdrie 3 Partick 2

Postponed: Alloa v Albion, Ayr v Forfar, Clyde v Hamilton, Falkirk v Clydebank, Morton v St Johnstone, Raith v Meadowbank.

#### Scottish Division Two

Aberdeen 2 Kilmarnock 4

Cowdenbeath 2 East Fife 2

Stirling 1 Queen of South 1

Postponed: Dunbar v East

Stirling, Montrose v Berwick, Queen's Park v Stranraer, Stenhousemuir v Brechin.

#### Scottish Division Three

Aberdeenshire 2 St Mirren 1

Dundee U 2 Dundee 1

Hibernian 2 Queen of South 1

Motherwell 3 Dundee 0

Rangers 0 Hearts 0

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